

Awami League takes lead in Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's Awami League party took an early lead in results after polling ended in the country's first free elections for 20 years, election commission officials said. They said the turnout was high in the elections, in which two women are the most prominent contenders — Sheikh Hasina, leader of the Awami League, and Begum Khaleda Zia, who heads the Bangladesh National Party (BNP). Sheikh Hasina is the daughter of Bangladesh's first president, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was killed in a coup in 1975. Begum Khaleda is the widow of General Ziaur Rahman, who took power later that year and was assassinated in 1981. Results from polling centres trickling in at 9 p.m. (1500 GMT) showed the league winning nine parliamentary seats in the first 18 results. The BNP had four seats, ousted President Hossain Mohammad Ershad's Jatiya Party had three and the fundamentalist Muslim Jamaat-e-Islami had two. Full results will not be known until Thursday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الراي)

King visits army HQ

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday visited the Jordanian Armed Forces Headquarters where he was received by Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, his assistants, the commander of the Jordanian Royal Air Force and the inspector general. King Hussein held a meeting with Abu Taleb and discussed with him issues of concern to the armed forces. King Hussein was accompanied on the visit by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Volume 16 Number 4638

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 1, 1991, SH'ABAN 13-14, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

U.S. stalls for time in Gulf

Security Council drags its feet over ceasefire despite Iraq's formal acceptance of all resolutions on Kuwait

Baghdad under heavy attack, reports battle at Nassiriya

Combined agency dispatches

UNCERTAINTY clouded prospects for a ceasefire in the 42-day-old Gulf war even after Iraq's acceptance Wednesday of all resolutions of the U.N. Security Council on the crisis, and it appeared that the United States and its allies were stalling for time to advance their objectives in the conflict before a truce takes hold. The Iraqi acceptance of all council resolutions — the basic precondition set by Washington for any ceasefire in the war — was contained in a letter sent by Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and delivered by Iraq's Ambassador to the world body, Abdul Amir Al Anbari. Contents of the letter were released by Baghdad Radio. It left no doubt that Iraq was not attaching any conditions to its acceptance of the resolutions. In remarks to reporters on his way to meet the secretary-general and the Zimbabwean chairman of the Security Council, Mr. Anbari also made it clear that Iraq was accepting all U.N. resolutions.

Pivotal tank battles rage west of Basra

Combined agency dispatches

ABOUT 800 AMERICAN tanks and armoured vehicles were locked in battle with 250 to 300 Republican Guard tanks west of the Iraqi city of Basra in the fiercest armoured engagement of the Gulf war, military sources said Wednesday. The core of the conflict involved hundreds of tanks from three U.S. armoured units against the Hammurabi division of the Republican Guard, Defence Department officials said. The pivotal battle was taking place some 80 kilometres west of the key military centre of Basra, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity. The corps has 70,000 people, including the two tank divisions of 16,500 each, and infantry and support personnel. The 2nd armoured cavalry regiment fighting the Republican Guard alongside the corps tanks has 1,500 people. Republican Guard tank division generally comprise between 10,000 and 13,000 men. Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the forces of Operation Desert Storm, said in Saudi Arabia that the engagement was a "classic tank battle, fire and manoeuvre." "This is the largest tank battle since World War II," said Col. Miguel Monteverde, the Defence Department's director of defence information. Gen. Schwarzkopf offered the latest numbers in the war, including: — 79 Americans killed in action, 28 of them in the current ground campaign. — 213 Americans wounded overall. — More than 3,000 Iraqi tanks captured or destroyed, plus 1,857 armoured vehicles and 2,110 artillery pieces. — More than 50,000 Iraqis captured. Gen. Schwarzkopf said allied forces

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Cheney says liberation of Kuwait not enough

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. DEFENCE Secretary Dick Cheney said Wednesday that allied forces hope to wrap up the Gulf war in "a few days" but that the goal must be to destroy Iraq's offensive military capability and not just to liberate Kuwait. "We want to wrap up this operation just as quickly as possible. We are hopeful that that time is only a matter of a few days away," Mr. Cheney said in a speech to a convention of the American Legion, a U.S. ex-servicemen's organisation. "But even after we've achieved our military objectives, even after we've destroyed (Iraq's) offensive military capability and expelled (its) forces from Kuwait, liberated Kuwait, the world will still be vitally interested in the future course of events with respect to the kinds of activities and policies pursued by the government in Baghdad," he said. The White House said Wednesday allied forces want to reduce Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's military strength on the assumption he will remain in

power once the Gulf war is over. Spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the war would not necessarily end with the departure of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. "The U.N. resolutions call for stability in the region, they call for a reduced military force. Assuming that Saddam Hussein stays in power, and assuming the U.N. resolutions are met, that would require we continue this effort to degrade his military structure," Mr. Fitzwater told reporters. "The conflict goes on as long as there are Iraqi forces to fight," he said. The United States supports a democratic Iraq after the Gulf war, another U.S. official said. On democracy for post-war Iraq, "I am quite sure this is our aspiration," Richard Schifter, assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs, told a panel of the U.S. Congress. Congressman Gus Yatron asked Mr. Schifter to comment on a report that the United States

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Egyptian students step up protests

POLICE USED teargas and smoke bombs and fired rubber bullets Wednesday to control thousands of demonstrating Cairo University students protesting the Gulf war and excessive force by police in four days of protests. Much smaller and more peaceful demonstrations were reported at universities in Alexandria on the Mediterranean coast and Assuit. The trouble began at Cairo University several hours after the demonstration began. Part of the 8,000 protesters read from the Koran, and others chanted anti-government slogans. Some in the second group broke down a door in an administration building, and university employees were sent home from their jobs. Witnesses said police lobbed canisters of teargas and smoke across a wrought-iron fence responding to stones the second group of protesters threw over the fence at them. They also fired rubber bullets through the bars, which police said was their first use of ammunition of any kind since demonstrations began Sunday. Dozens of demonstrators reported minor injuries. The retaliation curtailed the stoning, but the students regrouped on campus. They left quietly after about 90 more minutes on the guarantee of a police officer that they would not be harmed. A series of demonstrations began at the university on Sunday to protest the assault on Iraq by allied troops. Particularly at issue was the participation in the military drive against Iraqi forces by elements of 36,000 Egyptians in Saudi Arabia. By Wednesday, however, the focus of the protests seemed to have turned largely into criticism of police tactics. About 3,000 students displayed a coffin draped in black to protest the deaths of six colleagues. The student union at the engineering school issued a statement condemning police brutality, especially when they entered the university campus Monday to

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Continued war clearly violates U.N. mandate — Crown Prince Hassan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Continuation of hostilities inside Iraq after Iraqi troops had withdrawn from Kuwait constitutes a flagrant violation of the United Nations Security Council mandate in the Gulf crisis, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Wednesday. In an interview with the American television network NBC, Prince Hassan said: "The anxious mood in Baghdad is compounded by the tremendous losses of human suffering that the Iraqis have there after five weeks of bombardment and 90,000 tonnes of bombs. We have to get back to construction, we have to get back to total cessation of hostilities." In reply to a question on the U.N. mandate, the Prince said: "Clearly the fighting is in excess of the U.N. mandate in the sense that the objectives of all U.N. resolutions was to see an end to occupation of Kuwait and clearly there is relief on that story in Washington. All of us wish to see an end to the suffering of the Kuwaiti and Iraqi people. But,

however, if this thing goes beyond the mandate, and God knows where that is, there is still the possibility of non-conventional weapons, there is still the possibility that battle that we heard about in Basra bringing about further confrontation." On Jordanian people's feelings, he said: "There is sympathy for the Kuwaitis and a lot of concern for the Palestinians in Kuwait. They hope that that some of the rumours on revenge killings would not be realised. The only joy that we foresee is when peace comes to that part of the world." On Jordan's economy he said: "We have been losing since Aug. 2, but we stood up for a negotiated peace settlement and not for war. In terms of the future we will have to see what happens with the international and regional relations." Jordan Wednesday welcomed Iraq's decision to accept various U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning Kuwait, and re-

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Coalition continues to report low casualties

Combined agency dispatches

NINETEEN British, American and French soldiers were killed in action during the land assault on Iraq, allied spokesmen said Wednesday. The total included nine British soldiers who were killed by "friendly fire" from a U.S. aircraft during fighting in southern Iraq, a British military spokesman said. He said the American A-10, designed to attack tanks, fired at two British Warrior infantry fighting vehicles "in the heat of battle" Tuesday. The British soldiers were riding in two Warrior infantry fighting vehicles when the A-10, called in for support, accidentally fired on them, he said. "It was in the heat of battle but the remaining circumstances of the incident are under investigation," he said. The deaths bring to 33 the number of British troops killed or missing in the war, including 12 airmen shot down in early bombings.

During Tuesday and Wednesday's battle for the Kuwaiti capital, two divisions of U.S. marines encircled the city, which Iraqi forces had mostly evacuated, and fought with Iraqi armour at the international airport. It was retaken Wednesday. The British embassy in Kuwait will reopen Thursday, the Foreign Office said. Michael Weston, the British ambassador to Kuwait, flew to Saudi Arabia Wednesday and will then travel to the Kuwaiti capital by road or helicopter, officials said. Seven U.S. soldiers operating under French command — including two officers — have been killed in the allied ground offensive, the chief of the French armed forces said. Gen. Maurice Schmitt announced the deaths at a news conference. It was not immediately clear if some of the deaths had previously

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Sheikh Sabah: No talks with any Iraqi government

Combined agency dispatches

KUWAIT WILL NOT discuss with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein or any future Iraqi regime the border dispute which led to the invasion of the emirate, Kuwait's foreign minister was quoted Wednesday as saying. Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah was quoted in the weekly Al Mawwar magazine as saying that Kuwait would also insist Iraq pay financial retribution for the damages it caused in his country. "Let me assure you that there will not be any negotiations with Iraq, either with the present regime or any other future regime, there will be no negotiations between them and us," Sheikh Sabah said. "The border dispute is an allegation made by Iraq alone. What is between us is an agreement signed before by a prime minister of Iraq... we want to enforce this agreement," he added. Sheikh Sabah said Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait was not enough. "I ask today for retribution for my country which will be empty when I return to it."

He declined to give a specific figure. The magazine is published Thursday but the AP obtained it one day earlier. Iraq has said Kuwait was stealing oil from a border oilfield. It has demanded Kuwait's Bubiyan Island and another small island which are opposite Iraq's only outlets to the sea and asked for its war debts to be erased. After the invasion, Kuwaiti officials said they were willing to discuss Iraq's grievances after it withdrew from their country. United Nations resolutions have also said the two countries should negotiate after the crisis ends. British Prime Minister John Major said Wednesday the allied military offensive against Iraq was going well and declared that Kuwait City was "entirely free." Speaking to reporters outside his Downing Street office, Mr. Major said: "I'm delighted to confirm that Kuwait City is now entirely free. There are a large number of allied troops actually in Kuwait City."

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PUBLIC FURY: Jordanians stage a demonstration in Amman Wednesday in protest against the continuing war in the Gulf despite Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait (see page 3)

Iraqi pullout from Kuwait is not defeat — Badran

'Iraqis know what they are doing'

By Sana Attiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Wednesday told Parliament that Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait was not a defeat but part of Iraq's plans to defend itself. The Prime Minister called on the Soviet Union and Iran to take a firmer position on the U.S.-allied onslaught against Iraq. "The Iraqi forces withdrew (from Kuwait) to defend Iraq," Mr. Badran said, adding that Iraq had known that the aim of the U.S.-led alliance was to destroy Iraq's capabilities and not simply liberating Kuwait. "The south of Iraq will become a large graveyard for every invader against this pure land. So I don't want my brothers (in Parliament) to see this as a defeat," the premier told members of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament.

Mr. Badran said that the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait was a tactical military move that was not the result of pressure from allied forces. "There is a popular army with more than four million people armed in Iraq," the prime minister said. "We will see who will enter this jungle; he who will enter this jungle will not be able to leave it." Mr. Badran also called on Iran and the Soviet Union to take stronger positions against the continued allied bombardment of Iraq. "We need an honest position from our brothers in the Muslim government of Iran after what happened," Mr. Badran said, referring to the continued attacks against Iraq despite its withdrawal from Kuwait. "We need a strong position from the Soviet government because all the weapons that were placed against the Warsaw Pact

(countries) are now being transferred to Arab land and used to fight against one country, Iraq," Mr. Badran said. He added that Jordan was now working towards a ceasefire in the Gulf. He warned that if the war against Iraq did not stop, the allies would "regret it because there is a lot that can be done." Mr. Badran did not elaborate, but said that the Iraqi leadership and people are battle hardened and experienced enough to face aggression. He added that the Iraqi leadership had asked Jordan "to be patient" — in response to the Kingdom's anxiety to see quick results and know what Iraq would further do in the war. The prime minister, who was speaking during a regular Parliament session chaired by Deputy Speaker Atef Btoush, said that the deputies who spoke at the

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Dutch say Arafat is obstacle

THE HAGUE (AP) — Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek said Wednesday that the Palestinian problem will be hard to resolve unless Yasser Arafat is replaced as chief of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Van den Broek's remarks before the upper house of the Dutch parliament compared Mr. Arafat with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and were one of the strongest condemnations of the Palestinian leader by any Western nation in recent months. "It will be up to the Palestinians to decide who will represent them in talks aimed at resolving the Palestinian question after the Gulf conflict," Mr. Van den Broek said. However, "if the Palestinians continue putting their faith in Arafat... a solution to the Palestinian problem will be considerably more difficult," he said. Western leaders have frequently criticised the PLO for its pro-Iraqi stance ever since Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2. Mr. Arafat travelled several times to Baghdad to consult with President Saddam both before and after the Gulf war began on Jan. 17. Mr. Van den Broek said there was consensus among the 12 European Community (EC) nations to exercise a "wait-and-see" attitude in its contacts with the PLO. He said those contacts would

Arafat fears for safety of Palestinians in Kuwait

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN LEADER Yasser Arafat said Tuesday he fears a "massacre" of Palestinians in Kuwait with the liberation of the emirate. Mr. Arafat, who is visiting Algeria, said he asked President Chadli Bendjedid to protect what he said were the 170,000 Palestinians currently in Kuwait. Speaking on Algerian TV, Mr. Arafat said he feared a "massacre similar to that of Sabra and Shatila," Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. "The new American order will accord nothing" to the Palestinians, he said in a reference to the end of the Gulf war. He said the United States would try to make Israel the new "gendarme of the region." Mr. Arafat has been among Iraq's strongest supporters throughout the Gulf crisis. Mr. Arafat said earlier Tuesday that Arab states must "mobilise more seriously than ever at Iraq's side to end this crazy, destructive war, a war of vengeance."

Meanwhile, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials met at their headquarters in Tunis, Tunisia, to study the latest developments. In Damascus, a Palestinian guerrilla group urged Arabs to rally in support of Iraq, "facing a Zionist-American conspiracy." The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said the allied forces' campaign to liberate Kuwait was a "false slogan covering an objective of destroying the Iraqi army... defeating the Arab will on the land of Iraq." "Iraq waged a battle for the whole Arab Nation and gave its blood to defend Arab dignity. Iraq is now standing alone continuing the battle..." "This requires every true Arab to defend Iraq because what is being demanded is not the head of a national regime but the whole Arab future..." "Let us all raise in defence of Iraq and its national right for an honourable existence... let us use

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To Correspondents and Reporters of Foreign Radio and Television Station, News Agencies and Newspapers

The Jordanian Public Opinion Centre — Arab Press — has conducted an opinion poll on the attitude of Jordanian citizens towards Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and how they view Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Those wishing to get the results of this important poll please call the centre, Tel. and Fax No. 690311.

هذه اسمة لثعلب

One year to restore Baghdad power supplies, engineer says

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq will need at least one year to restore full electricity supplies to Baghdad because of severe bomb damage, a senior Iraqi engineer said on Wednesday.

The engineer, Thakir Ismail Al Qubaisi, said U.S.-led air raids in the first week of the Gulf war had destroyed all 10 of the Iraqi capital's sub-stations, used to distribute power to Baghdad's 4.5 million inhabitants.

Though there was no independent confirmation that all sub-stations had been knocked out. Two shown to correspondents Wednesday had been reduced to a mass of rubble, burned out control rooms and twisted metal pylons.

Mr. Qubaisi said two units, at Yarmouk in western Baghdad, and Al Waziriya in the north, had served 300,000 people as well as factories and hospitals.

"The damage is severe. Nothing can be repaired, just look at it," Mr. Qubaisi said at the Yarmouk plant.

The sound of exploding bombs from an air raid on other targets were heard in the distance as he spoke.

Mr. Qubaisi, who is responsible for sub-stations, said he could not estimate the cost of restoring power supplies and buying replacement equipment.

"Prices have gone up since these sub-stations were built. As for the time needed, I would say one year," Mr. Qubaisi said.

Iraq was a net electricity exporter before the Gulf crisis. Its national power grid has been either shut down or damaged in raids since the start of the war.

Delays in restoring electricity are likely to have a major impact on resumption of industrial activity.

What little generating capacity remains in Baghdad is now used to pump water to residents for just two hours a day.

The Health Ministry says the serious shortage of treated water and the inability to process raw sewage mean epidemics such as cholera and typhoid could spread

through the population.

It has advised Iraqis to boil water before using it to drink or cook with to reduce the risk of disease.

In one poor, low-lying area of Baghdad Wednesday, residents waded through streets shin-deep in water after heavy rain, one resident said there was no power to work drainage systems.

Washington and its Gulf war allies say they have bombed only military or militarily useful targets in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities.

Iraqi officials say the aim of the raids is to destroy Iraq's infrastructure and punish civilians.

Mr. Qubaisi said two men, both workers, were killed in the bombing of the Yarmouk plant and Waziriya sub-stations between Jan. 20 and 23.

Several power pylons and microwave telecommunication relay posts have also been bombed along the western highway from Baghdad to the border to Jordan.

Smoke blocks sunlight in south Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Heavy smoke blocked the sun in parts of southern Iran Wednesday morning, part of the environmental fallout from the Gulf crisis that includes oil slicks, smog and black rain.

Street lights remained on and cars could not move without their headlights in Iran's Khuzestan province, especially the provincial capital of Ahwaz, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

"The heavy smoke has been caused by the repeated bombardment of economic, commercial and residential centres, especially oil installations in Iraq and Kuwait, by the U.S.-led allied forces on the one hand, and destruction of Kuwaiti oil fields by the Iraqi forces both before and after their withdrawal from Kuwait," said the news agency.

Dark, putrid clouds of smoke containing hydrocarbons and other pollutants have blanketed many Iranian provinces since the war began Jan. 17.

Black, greasy rain has been reported in parts of southern Iran, not far from the border with Iraq, on several occasions over the past few weeks.

A dark mist laced with smoke from burning oil installations was reported in Baghdad Tuesday, where a drizzle turned to heavy rain Tuesday night as southwesterly winds brought more pollution from Kuwait.

In southeastern Turkey, similar rainfall Monday blackened the clothes and skin of people caught in it. Hundreds of nervous residents telephoned state offices to get information about the phenomenon.

Turkish officials said they were conducting tests to determine if the "pollution" was caused by the "oil" fires in Kuwait and Iraq or other sources.

Adana Governor Birsin Ozon warned residents not to use the rain water and cautioned them not to allow their animals to drink it, the Anatolia news agency said.

Sunday and Monday, a thick, gray haze — accompanied by a heavy petroleum stench — blanketed Bahrain across the Gulf from Iran as smoke from torched Kuwaiti oil facilities blew south.

Almost 200 oil wells are said to have been set ablaze by Iraqi forces in Kuwait before the allied troops began their ground offensive Sunday.

In addition, an oil slick estimated at three to seven million barrels of petroleum, is floating in the Gulf, contaminating beaches and threatening desalination plants in Saudi Arabia.

Officials say most of the oil came from Kuwait taps that were opened by Iraqis, and some of its came from oil installations bombed by the allies.

Jawad Al Arrayed, Bahrain's health minister, opened a two-day conference of experts Tuesday to discuss ways of countering the environmental threat.

"We are faced with the biggest challenge in our history, and this requires concerted national, regional and international effort," Mr. Arrayed said.

Soviet conservative paper denounces 'frenzied' war

MOSCOW (R) — A conservative Soviet newspaper bitterly attacked the United States and its allies on Wednesday for spurning a ceasefire in the Gulf and pursuing a "frenzied" military offensive against Iraq.

"The machine of death assembled by the West is gathering speed," the hard-line Sovetskaya Rossiya said in a signed commentary distinctly reminiscent of the cold war.

"The number of warplane sorties is growing. All around is electronics, the high-technology 'culture' of destroying people. Someone is rubbing his hands with pleasure: 'We're working well.'"

The Soviet Union's conservative press has condemned Washington for starting the ground war, but the attack in Sovetskaya Rossiya was the strongest outburst so far.

On Tuesday President Mikhail Gorbachev warned that superpower relations could suffer if the blitzkrieg against Iraq was not halted.

Mr. Gorbachev, on a visit to the western republic of Byelorussia, said U.S.-Soviet relations were still "fragile" and Washington risked exceeding a United Nations mandate to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait.

"There is a danger of going beyond the Security Council mandate. I hope that the American leadership will feel its responsibility for the situation," he said.

The Soviet Union, formerly Baghdad's close ally and biggest arms supplier, condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August and backed 12 U.N. resolutions aimed at forcing it to withdraw.

But communist hardliners and the military have voiced mounting opposition to the massive offensive launched against Iraq just 400 km from Soviet borders.

Moscow was quick to call for a ceasefire Tuesday after Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein declared Iraqi forces were pulling out of Kuwait.

Washington's refusal to end hostilities provoked the new attack in Sovetskaya Rossiya, one of several headline communist papers to denounce U.S. "imperialism" in the Gulf and accuse it of waging a colonial war to wipe out Iraq.

"Before the eyes of the whole

world the process of frenzied, merciless destruction of Iraq is going on, while at the same time one hears such flourishes as: 'Saddam is guilty, he provoked the conflict,' commentator Yuri Gvozdev wrote.

"No, it's not Hussein who is guilty but those who, comfortably sitting in their armchairs, have raised their hands for the destruction of people, for ecological catastrophe, for economic ruin for a series of countries due to rising oil prices — and for the imperialist interests of the United States which have nothing in common with universal human values."

The newspaper's special correspondent in Baghdad, Viktor Filatov, reported that the allied offensive had stalled and Iraqi forces were striking back.

"Iraqi forces valiantly withstood the first powerful blow, stood their ground and, in their turn, launched a counter-attack ... the Iraqi army has shown its fortitude, courage and bravery," he said.

TASS call

The official news agency TASS Wednesday repeated Moscow's call for an immediate ceasefire, saying Iraq's rapid, unconditional pullout from Kuwait created a fresh chance for a peaceful settlement.

"The question arises: Is it worth sacrificing human lives to definitively smash the Iraqi military machine? Kuwait is practically liberated, and consequently the reason for conducting military actions is removed," TASS said.

"The logical way out... would be the halting of armed confrontation and settlement of the problem at the negotiating table, which corresponds to the interests of the whole world community."

Soviet military officials have openly denounced the U.S. for the war against Iraq. Many observers assert that the Soviet defence establishment is nursing bitter feelings about its losses in the Afghan war, where American-supported rebels inflicted heavy casualties on the Soviet army supporting the government. The Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan ended in 1989.

Israeli leaders spar while Gulf war rages

TEL AVIV — At the very hour that Saddam Hussein was making a speech heard round the world, Israel's leader and his chief rival turned up the volume on an old argument: Who would make the better Middle East peacemaker.

Rightist Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, 75, and Labour Party opposition leader Shimon Peres, 67, got into a shouting match Tuesday at a close meeting of parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, participants said.

Israel Radio said Mr. Peres assailed remarks Mr. Shamir made the previous night to parliament members from his Likud Party. Mr. Shamir had said he shuddered at the thought of Labour leading the country.

"I too shudder when I think that you and Likud lead the country. Your speech last night to the Likud caucus revealed your natural hatred of Labour," Mr. Peres was quoted as saying.

Mr. Shamir retorted: "I fear the fate of the Jewish people were you responsible for its fate. It's not hatred but love for Israel. I don't hate you. What do you want — that I should love you?"

The rivalry, like many in Israeli politics, has been around a long time.

But the timing of the confrontation at so pivotal a point in the Gulf war suggested each was launching an opening salvo in the anticipated post-war battle over how to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The meeting got under way just as Baghdad Radio began broadcasting a speech by President Saddam, the Iraqi president, ordering the swift pullout of Iraqi soldiers whose occupation of Kuwait ignited the war.

Mr. Shamir's Likud party opposes Labour's push to swap parts of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in return for peace with the Palestinians living there and Israel's other Arab neighbours.

The United States, Israel's close ally and leader of a Western-Arab alliance fighting Iraq, has already said a solution to the Palestinian problem will feature in its post-war agenda.

Mr. Shamir and Mr. Peres were partners in a "national unity" government that collapsed nearly a year ago over Likud's refusal to join Labour in accepting U.S. proposals for first-ever talks with Palestinians.

Later Mr. Shamir formed the most headline government in Israeli history, including among its cabinet members a former general who favours removing Palestinians from the occupied territories.

"I believe in the land of Israel the way it is," Mr. Shamir told Israel Television later, referring to Israel and the occupied territories lands. "This is not an obstacle to peace."

But Mr. Peres said: "Peace means a compromise by the two sides."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Assad confers with Hrawi

DAMASCUS (AP) — President Hafez Al Assad conferred Wednesday with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi. The meeting was attended by Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam. Mr. Hrawi's visit was not announced in advance. He arrived earlier in the day by land. No details were released on the reason for the visit. Diplomats said the talks would focus on ways to consolidate security measures that the Lebanese government is taking to end nearly 16 years of civil war.

Iraq to repatriate Iranian PoWs

NICOSIA (AP) — Baghdad will be sending some 76 Iranians captured in its 1980-88 war with Iraq, Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency said Wednesday. The 76 Iranians would be going home within 48 hours. Mohammad Ali Nazaran, an Iranian official in charge of the Prisoners of War (PoW) affairs, said that in exchange, Iran will repatriate 76 Iraqi prisoners captured in the war. Some 76,000 prisoners on both sides were exchanged, before Iraq abruptly halted the swap in September. Tehran says that thousands of Iranian prisoners are still held in Iraq. Baghdad had said it had repatriated all Iranian PoWs. The International Committee of the Red Cross, which supervised the exchange, has upheld Iran's claim, but has added it could not estimate the number of Iranians still imprisoned in Iraq.

Indonesia: Gulf will be safe for Haj

JAKARTA (R) — President Suharto says Indonesian Muslims can prepare for June's annual Haj pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia because the Gulf region appears to be returning to normal. "President Suharto has instructed (national airline) Garuda to prepare for the Haj since he judges the situation in Saudi Arabia is safe again," Religious Affairs Minister Munawir-Sjadzali told reporters. So far, only 33,000 pilgrims from the world's largest Muslim nation have applied to go to Mecca, half last year's number. Garuda Indonesia Chairman Mohammad Suparno said the airline expected to carry about 50,000 pilgrims and would charter five or six wide-bodied jets, possibly from Canada and the Netherlands. This year, members of the military will travel with the pilgrims for safety reasons, Mr. Munawir said. About 800 Indonesians were killed in a stampede in a tunnel near a holy site during last year's Haj.

17 Turkish soldiers dismissed

ISTANBUL (AP) — Seventeen soldiers in the Turkish air force have been forced to retire by military authorities for engaging in Muslim fundamentalist activities, a Turkish newspaper reported Wednesday. Seventeen non-commissioned officers from bases throughout the country were forced to retire as a result of an investigation by the air forces command, according to the Istanbul daily Gunes. The daily said 200 non-commissioned officers had been dismissed from the air force under similar conditions over the past four years. The 800,000-strong Turkish armed forces is one of the main defenders of secularism, which is considered one of the most important characteristics of the modern Turkish republic founded by Kemal Ataturk in 1923. Turkey has been increasingly concerned by the spread of Islamic fundamentalism lately.

U.S. asks Italy for extradition of Iraqi

ROME (R) — The United States has asked Italy for the extradition of an Iraqi wanted for a bombing campaign against Israeli targets in New York in 1973, a U.S. embassy spokesman said Wednesday. Khalid Duhihan Al Jawary was arrested while in transit at Rome airport on Jan. 16, the day before the Gulf war broke out. He had been on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) most wanted list for 18 years. Italian police acted on an international arrest warrant after U.S. officials spotted Mr. Jawary boarding a plane at Athens on his way to Tunis. He is being held in Italy on charges of travelling with false identification. Mr. Jawary, is charged in New York with the attempted bombing of an El Al airlines cargo building and two Israeli banks. The bombs, which did not go off, were set to detonate on March 4, 1973; the day Israel's then-leader Golda Meir was to arrive in New York.

Iran says millions spent on refugees

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has spent between \$35 million and \$40 million on shelter, food and other services for some 10,000 refugees from the Gulf war, an Iranian official said Tuesday. International relief agencies have helped Iran with only five per cent of the expenses, according to the unnamed official quoted by the Iranian news agency IRNA. The official said a total of 9,657 refugees from 27 countries had entered Iran since allied air attacks on Iraq began on Jan. 17, of whom 5,478 had already gone to their home countries. The refugees are usually housed in border camps before being sent to Tehran for flights home arranged by their embassies. Iranian officials said earlier this month they had made preparations to receive up to 100,000 refugees.

Bush for 'Nobel war prize'

ROME (AP) — An Italian Catholic magazine says U.S. President George Bush deserves the "Nobel war prize," accusing him of ignoring chances for peace in the Gulf. "George Bush is a surly master of the world," the weekly Il Sabato (Saturday) said in an editorial, released in advance Tuesday. "He had the very concrete possibility of a just peace and he chose war." The editorial charged that Mr. Bush "didn't give a damn" about Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's peace initiative or the numerous peace appeals of Pope John Paul II. It accused Mr. Bush of imposing new conditions on Iraq for its withdrawal from Kuwait to justify the allied ground offensive. "The American president entrusted himself to the military and found the way to achieve his objective: war to the end until the humiliation of Saddam Hussein," the editorial said. The magazine also released the text of an article by Italian Cardinal Silvio Oddi which criticises the U.S. position. "There remains the question of why the plan of the Soviet leader was not accepted by the United States," he wrote. "The prime objective, the unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, was assured. Even the technical details seemed reasonable. Instead Washington hardened its position." The cardinal affirmed that the Pope was the only international figure who "did all that was possible" to try to avert the Gulf war.

Baghdad Radio says Iraqis performed duty

NICOSIA (R) — Baghdad Radio told Iraqis Tuesday they had performed their duty for Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and made the U.S.-led allies pay a price.

In a commentary shortly before midnight (2100 GMT), the time President Saddam Hussein set earlier on Tuesday for all Iraqi troops to have withdrawn from Kuwait, the radio said Iraqis had manifested the will to "stay on the path of dignity and honour in their great historic battle, which they waged courageously."

"There is enough pride, dignity, and honour for the Iraqi people in realising that they have performed their honourable duty for their historic leadership and for their true and struggling leader Saddam Hussein," the radio said.

The broadcast echoed themes of President Saddam's 30-minute speech in which he declared Iraqis had won a moral victory even though Kuwait was no longer Iraq's 19th province and the army would end its nearly seven-month-long occupation of the emirate.

"Iraq confronted the armies of 30 countries, some of which bear the title of superpower and others big power, along with all their developed weaponry, equipment, and material resources ...," the radio said.

"The 40 days of military confrontation, and the months of economic and political confrontation before that, are a unique example of all the Iraqi people's courage, and their perseverance, in bearing all difficulties for the sake of their principles, honour, and dignity."

"They have even turned this duel into an unprecedented mythical confrontation. They have recorded epics that will be eternal in the memory and language of Iraq, the Arab Homeland, and the world," the radio said.

"The confrontation between the Iraqis and the gathering of aggression and infidelity has clarified many facts for the international community without any of the covers or well-known ways of misleading or glossing over them."

"One of the most important results which should make the sons of great Iraq even prouder is that they are the ones who made this happen. They are the ones who made failing (U.S. President George) Bush, his administration, and all those with him in the evil alliance pay a price and sacrifice themselves."

U.S. reported to be forging sanctions plan

LOS ANGELES (R) — The United States is quietly forging a strategy to prompt a coup in Baghdad by preventing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from rebuilding the country's shattered economy, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The Los Angeles Times, quoting unnamed senior U.S. officials, said the United States intends to maintain the economic sanctions that block Iraqi oil exports, depriving Baghdad of the money it desperately needs to recover from allied bombing raids.

The officials hope that further deterioration of life inside Iraq will spark a revolt against the leadership in a matter of weeks or months, the paper quoted its sources as saying.

"We will present Iraqis with the prospect of a future in which this leader will just drag them further and further down," it quoted a senior official as saying.

At the same time, the paper said, the White House plans to ask the United Nations to maintain its embargo on sales of military and other "strategic goods" to

Iraq to make it impossible for the Iraqi armed forces to rebuild.

The administration of President George Bush intends to ask the United Nations Security Council to maintain some of its 12 resolutions authorising international sanctions against Iraq until the U.S.-led coalition is satisfied that "peace and security" are restored, as called for by the council's Resolution 678.

Such a move, officials were quoted as saying, would mean President Saddam must lose his leadership position.

However, the Los Angeles Times said, the administration plans to seek a relaxation of one U.N. sanction; the embargo on non-strategic sales to Iraq, such as food and consumer goods.

It also quoted a number of senior officials as saying the administration had no interest in a long-term role for American troops inside Iraq.

If the area is to be occupied for a time, or patrolled by an observer force, "we want to turn the job over to Arab forces as soon as possible," a White House official was quoted as saying.

Indian papers denounce U.S.

NEW DELHI (R) — Leading Indian newspapers denounced the United States Wednesday for refusing to halt the Gulf war despite Iraq's announcement of a withdrawal from Kuwait.

"The U.S. decision to continue the Gulf war despite Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait is untenable," said the Hindustan Times.

"It makes clear that Washington's war aims were not confined to the liberation of Kuwait, which it has already achieved," it said in an editorial.

"What Washington wants is not just Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait but its surrender, the fall of Saddam Hussein, the destruction of what is left of his military machine, the imposition of a new security set-up in West Asia (the Middle East) convenient for the United States and its allies, and control of the area's oil through pliable regimes."

The Times of India accused Washington of going "well beyond the letter and spirit of the (U.N.) Security Council resolutions," demanding an Iraqi pull-out.

But, in a front-page editorial, the newspaper said it was now time to worry about the peace. "The United States can be trusted to retain the initiative and to deploy the forbidding cloud it has acquired to its best advantage," it said.

But it added: "The force of culture, religion and nationalism — which is the only force left at the disposal of the wretched of

the earth — can make itself felt in the most unexpected ways, particularly when its source lies in aborted hopes, an absence of equity, hurt pride and an inflated sense of humiliation."

"That is why the peace that follows this catastrophic war threatens to be a troubled one. The American rejection of the Iraqi move to withdraw from Kuwait is ominous in this regard."

India Wednesday welcomed the restoration of Kuwait's independence.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "We have been firm supporters of the United Nations Security Council resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait."

"We welcome the restoration of sovereignty and independence of Kuwait," he added.

India's deputy minister of external affairs, Digvijay Singh, returned home Wednesday after making a vain attempt to reach Baghdad Monday with the foreign ministers of Yugoslavia, Cuba and Iran for talks with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

The spokesman said the ministers were unable to travel to Baghdad because of the ground war.

Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was also in Tehran Tuesday for talks with Iranian leaders on ways to end the Gulf war. There was no report Wednesday on his whereabouts.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES

04:51 Fajr
06:09 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:49 Dhuhur
15:00 'Asr
17:30 Maghrib
18:47 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 657440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Amman International Church Tel. 827981, 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be relatively cold and partly cloudy, and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain in the eastern parts of the Kingdom.

Amman Min./max. temp. 4/14
Aqaba 10/22
Djers 3/15
Jordan Valley 9/20

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 12, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings:
Amman 19 per cent, Aqaba 45 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Anwar Agrabawi 642696
Dr. Khalid Mu'addi 743500
Dr. Salah Al Usoud 649028
Dr. Khalid Al Jabali 740740
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 783336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Naroukh pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Adil Hatamleh (—)
Al Sharaa' pharmacy (273825)
ZARQA:
Dr. Issa Al Omari 985417
Khalifah pharmacy (273825)

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information/ (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 63101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 615615
Electric Power 7771013

Company:
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akil Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 669131
Shmeisani Hospital 845845
University Hospital 845845
Al-Munasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mahajreen 7771013

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)981071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)987632
Otra 600/500
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Banana 500/450
Banana (Mukannas) 450/400
Beans 340/280
Cabbage 100/60
Carrot 200/180
Cauliflower 250/200
Cucumbers (large) 240/180
Cucumbers (small) 240/180
Dates 500/400
Eggplant 180/140

Garlic 1400/1300
Grape

Jordanians reflect over politics, but fume over allies' war

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians appeared to be subdued and reflecting politically Wednesday over the situation in the Gulf after Iraq's acceptance of withdrawal from Kuwait, but many reacted with vehement fury over the continued attacks on Iraqi forces by the allies.

Several analysts also warned that the allies' pursuit of optimal political and military goals by continuing the war and what is widely seen as a determination to delay a ceasefire as much as possible could spark violent reactions from moderates.

Shock and disbelief which initially greeted the Iraqi announcement that it was withdrawing from Kuwait early Tuesday made way Wednesday for indignation and anger over the American refusal to accept the Iraqi withdrawal and Washington's insistence to "prosecute" the war within Iraqi territory.

"What do the Americans want? Saddam Hussein's head on a platter surrounded with the ashes of Iraq?" asked Fathima, a university student. "There cannot be any other explanation to what the Americans are doing in southern Iraq," she said.

"It is no longer a question of the Palestinian problem or what stage it stands now," said Mohammad Awad, a waiter at a downtown restaurant. "We have surpassed that stage; but we are frustrated over our inability to do anything about the crimes that the U.S. is committing in the Arabian Desert."

Awad's reference was to the "delinkage" between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem as evident in the Soviet proposal which led to Baghdad's acceptance of withdrawal from Kuwait.

On Tuesday, many in Jordan had expressed disappointment that Iraq had agreed to withdraw without engaging the allied forces in any massive ground battle as was anticipated. But as the developments in the Gulf unfolded into what was widely seen as a frenzied allied campaign led by the U.S. to inflict as much damage as possible on the Iraqi military and occupy large chunks of southern Iraq as bargaining chips in possible political negotiations, "frustration and fury surged forth."

"The Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait has exposed the actual American schemes in the region," said Bashir Taha, a tailor. "There is no shadow for (U.S.

President George) Bush to hide behind and push for the total elimination of the country called Iraq and a people called Iraqis," he said.

Washington has repeatedly stated that its objective in the Gulf war was limited to "liberating" Kuwait, but many Jordanians pointed out that if that indeed was the goal why the U.S. was continuing the war despite the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the allies' entry to the emirate.

"We have known it from the very beginning that the ulterior motive of the Americans is to destroy the military and economic potential of Iraq," said Taha. "This would suit the Israelis very well and would also serve the American objective of dominating Arab oil reserves and market."

But, he warned, "many in Jordan have exercised restraint so far, partly because they are not basically violent and partly because they do not want to upset the law and order situation in the country; now, if the systematic destruction of Iraq continues unabated, with the international community turned into a bystander, then all hell will break loose."

As it is, said Khalil Nasser — a tobaccoist — "the U.S. has acquired the wrath of the Arab masses, enough to last for the next 50 years."

Security forces meanwhile remained on alert against any violent incidents, and senior officials said they were discouraging people from staging demonstrations. "We understand the people's feelings and frustration over the situation in the Gulf," said a senior official. "We also realise that protests and demonstrations are one way of letting off steam, but we cannot allow things to get out of hand — which is a definite possibility, given the mood of the people."

Security forces were discouraging foreign television crews and cameramen from venturing out freely from their hotels. A security source explained that while no major incident of violence against foreign journalists had taken place, "it is only a matter of prudence of them to keep a low profile for a day or two."

Riot police had sealed off the access from the Third and Second Circles to the American embassy, and most foreign journalists staying at the Intercontinental Hotel were advised to stay within the hotel premises.

TCC begins curtailing phone service to defaulting subscribers Saturday

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As of Saturday March 2, the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) will launch a campaign within the Amman governorate in order to collect millions of dinars worth of telephone call charges due from subscribers who include private individuals and public organisations.

According to Mr. Ahmad Mu'nes, deputy director of the TCC's finance department, the total sum of dues on subscribers at the start of February stood at JD 11 million, but he said this was bound to be reduced considerably due to the payments being made at present and which will continue until Thursday evening.

Mu'nes told the Jordan Times that there was a big rush this week for TCC offices and local banks authorised to receive payments for telephone bills and this was bound to continue even after the commencement of the coming campaign.

Subscribers, who have failed by March 2 to settle their bills for telephone calls up to Dec. 31, 1990 will have the service reduced to incoming calls only. This partial service will be available for

only 10 days before lines are cut should subscribers fail to settle the bills by this deadline, Mu'nes noted.

He said that once the telephone line has been cut it would not be reconnected except with the settlement of all dues and the payment of a JD 5 fine to the TCC.

Out of the JD 11 million due from subscribers in the Amman region, nearly JD 2 million is due from government departments, but the campaign does not cover them since government bills are normally paid periodically when funds have been received from the treasury, Mu'nes noted.

He said that this campaign was normally conducted every three months so that the TCC could collect the dues and meet its financial obligations which are normally settled with hard currency.

Asked about the prospect of allowing subscribers to pay their dues by instalment, he said that no plans were being contemplated at the moment to introduce such a system unless for humanitarian reasons.

However, he noted, the TCC was ready to consider any complaint submitted in writing about

inaccuracies in bills or any other grievances.

To pave the ground for the campaign, the TCC has been placing notices in the local press since the beginning of February and has even sent notices to the television and radio stations in order to urge people to settle their telephone bills to avoid a rush towards the end of the deadline, Mu'nes noted.

The TCC is contemplating the idea of halting this practice and demanding that the bills be settled on a monthly basis like the electricity bills, with the subscribers risking having their telephone lines cut without prior warning if they fail to settle their dues, Mu'nes continued.

But should the TCC decide on this system, plans would be announced in the media to bring it to the attention of the public, he added.

The most recent notice placed by TCC in the local press divided the Amman region into four separate zones, with subscribers in each zone facing the disruption of their telephone services in four subsequent weeks, ending by March 29, 1991.

The same campaign is going to be launched in the other governorates of the Kingdom after Eid Al

Fitr which comes at the end of the holy month of Ramadan, expected to be on March 16, Mu'nes said in his statement.

But, he noted, subscribers in areas outside the Amman region were indebted by a total of JD 8 million which was expected to be greatly reduced by the time the campaign starts.

For the annual subscription paid to the TCC, which is JD 27 per household, subscribers can make up to 1000 calls, six minutes each, during the whole year, but any calls made in excess to the 1000 are considered extra, for which bills are issued on a monthly basis along with the bill for long distance calls, Mu'nes explained.

He said that the TCC would shortly start sending the subscription bills by mail.

Through these repeated campaigns, Mu'nes said, the subscribers have been accustomed to settling their bills as they come so that no large sums accumulate.

Indeed, he added, the TCC is doing a good service to the subscribers by helping them to meet their obligations and avoid having to face complications and losing the valuable telephone service which such complications could entail.

Deputies present demands to defend Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ongoing war in Iraq dominated discussion at a session by the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday which was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and cabinet members.

Former House speaker Suleiman Arar stressed the need to stand by Iraq in its war and suggested that the government seriously and speedily study the situation in consultation with the Iraqis leadership before deciding on means by which Jordan can lend support for the Iraqi people and help reconstruct Iraqi infrastructure.

Ahmad Innab, Jamal Khreisha and Mohammad Murar presented a joint view concerning the situation demanding that Arab countries which supported Iraq stand

by the armed forces and peoples at this juncture in order to stop the aggression.

They noted that France, Britain the United States and Israel have conspired to occupy Iraq and destroy its military capabilities.

Ahmad Kofahi demanded that the students of Yarmouk University and the Jordan University of Science and Technology be armed to become a back up force helping the People's Army and the armed forces.

His views were echoed by Fakhri Kawa who also called for bolstering the People's Army and to open the door for volunteers.

In reply, Mr. Badran said Jordan would continue to do all it can to stick to its position and

noted that the Kingdom's efforts were great compared to its small population and financial capabilities.

On the House's recommendations to train university students, Mr. Badran assured them that it was acceptable, but noted that this measure would cover educational institutions gradually.

"It is not feasible to stop all educational institutions for training up to 150,000 people at the same time. This needs a programme where two or three institutions can do it at a time," Mr. Badran said, stressing his support to such a programme that would be led by the People's Army.

On demands to arm the people, based on requests made by the students from Yarmouk University and the Jordan University

for Science and Technology, a group of whom attended the session, Badran announced that arms had already been distributed to most students.

"The government is working towards the rest," Mr. Badran said, adding that there were other details he could not specify in an open session.

The prime minister paid tribute to the Jordanian people's effort and willingness to sacrifice for their position against the aims of the West, saying that this insistence on their position has not been taken by any other great country in the world."

Parliamentarians return from Algiers

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation returned to Amman Wednesday after taking part in a two-day meeting by the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) held in Algiers.

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Abdul Latif Arabiyat, who led the delegation, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra that the Gulf war dominated the discussions.

Speakers at the meeting urged all Arab parliaments to support Iraq and to initiate moves at the international level to achieve a ceasefire.

The meeting passed a decision emphasising the importance for

all Arab countries to back Iraq's efforts for peace and to call for a meeting by the leaders of all Arab countries supporting Iraq to stop the devastating war.

The APU, he said, also decided to consider the Algiers meeting as an open meeting and to urge Arab parliaments to work out a formula that would ensure an end to aggression on Iraq, said Arabiyat.

He said that the participants discussed the situation in the Israeli held occupied Arab territories and the ongoing intifada of the Palestinian people, and decided to call on the United Nations to send representatives and observers to pave the way for an

end to the current siege imposed on the Palestinian people.

According to Arabiyat, the APU meeting took a decision for providing material and moral support for the Palestinian uprising and for calling on the various world organisations to support the Palestinian people in the face of Israeli crimes.

A statement issued at the end of the APU meeting said that Arab parliaments should unite and find proper means to repel aggression by all available means and foil the U.S. colonial plans for the establishment of the so-called new world order which aims to implement Zionist plans

in the Arab region, Arabiyat noted.

Arabiyat met with the Algerian president and prime minister who emphasised the need for a summit meeting by Arab heads of state who did not collaborate with the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq to study proper means of responding to the demands of the Arab and Islamic masses.

Arabiyat was accompanied by parliament members: Thouqan Hindawi, Abdallah Ensour, Ahmad Azaideh, Mohammad Tarawneh and Amin Shuqair. Countries taking part in the Algiers meeting were: Jordan, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Libya.

Returning expatriates describe war tragedies in Kuwait and Iraq

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

RUWEISHED — Stories of death and destruction were told at this town lately border post where fewer families than ever before continue to escape the continued allied bombings in Kuwait, southern Iraq and the road to the Jordanian border.

After a five day journey, six families with dozens of children arrive exhausted but happy to be alive and well. While most families report no casualties among their immediate relatives one man, Mahmoud Abu Khalil, showed the Jordan Times reporter what an air attack on his Kuwait neighbourhood did to his eight year old daughter.

Raya Abu Khalil showed the fresh stitches which patched up her torn abdomen as she laid in her father's Range Rover. She was unable to get up because her legs had also been injured in an air raid in Abdali. The blood stained bandages on her injured legs had not been changed since the family left Kuwait 7 days ago.

Raya's father, a former employee at the Kuwait Electricity Company, said that after he was able to transport his daughter he decided to leave all his belongings behind in Kuwait and bring his wife and five children to Jordan.

"We have nothing left, no money, nothing. But at least here in Jordan we are safe," he noted.

As half a dozen Jordanian families arrived in Ruweished, 132 members of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front headed to Iraq in three buses to fight alongside the Iraqis.

Only one of the six families said that they wanted to return to Kuwait once the country was restored to normal.

"We might go back, who knows," said Bassam Maher, 28. Maher and his five children were all born in Kuwait and he feels there may still be room for him

once "the war is over."

But many of the returning Jordanians, most of whom were born in Kuwait, feel that Kuwaitis will no longer welcome the same people who helped build their country during the last 30 years.

"They hate us, because they think that we are responsible for the Iraqi invasion. They were some killings of Jordanians and Palestinians in Kuwait by Kuwaitis already. I will never return," said 19 year old Emman while cradling her infant.

By far the most horrifying of all the stories told at the border post Wednesday was that by two sisters from the Abu Ayyash family.

"After we left Najaf we saw three burning cars on the side of the road, blood was all over the road and we saw the bodies of some dead men and children. Some ambulances were there and we saw injured women and children being taken away. We did not know the three families that were apparently the victims," said Nazha Abu Ayyash.

"We know they were Jordanians and we know that their cars had been hit by allied bombers... how can they hit us. We are refugees?" she asked.

Nazha and her sister also spoke to the Jordan Times about the non-stop bombing from the Kuwaiti border to Amman.

"We left Kuwait to escape death only to die a thousand deaths on the road."

The Abu Ayyash family decided to flee Kuwait after they saw the bombardment of a civilian hospital in Riga where six doctors along with their families were killed.

"When we heard about these deaths we were sure that we were no longer safe so we left," said Nazha.

"The bombing went on and on until we could stand it no more," added Nazha's sister.

Haj Mazen Al Qubbaj wins \$20,000 UNESCO prize

AMMAN (AFP) — A \$20,000 prize offered biennially by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) this year went to Haj Mazen Al Qubbaj, 55, from Jordan in recognition of his effort in the rural communications fields.

Qubbaj, the first Arab to receive the prize said he was awarded it for the extensive educational programmes he has been presenting through the radio and television in the agricultural extension service.

Qubbaj, who was until recently employed by the Jordanian government, has worked over the past 32 years for the Ministry of Agriculture, Radio Jordan and Jordan Television, presenting programmes considered as guidance for farmers' and people in rural areas in Arabic and a well understood manner winning him nationwide fame.

"I started work in 1959 by presenting a programme directed to people of the rural regions and farmers through Radio Jordan which was adopted by Jordan Television under the title 'The Good Land'." Qubbaj said in a statement to Agence France Presse (AFP).

Qubbaj later presented a television programme entitled "Madafet Abu Mahmoud" which lasted for seven years, during which he tackled social and environmental issues encountered mostly by inhabitants of the rural regions of Jordan.

Qubbaj appeared in many television programmes interviewing farmers and fruit tree growers in the Jordan Valley and the highlands, offering useful information for the local farmers.

Before working for the radio station, Qubbaj had served as a guide for the Agricultural Extension Service in the Jerusalem area in 1955.

Support for Iraq grows

Ceasefire, peace calls continue

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Economists Society (JET) Wednesday handed the United Nations office in Amman a protest note addressed to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in response to the ongoing aggression against Iraq.

The note, which was handed over to Dr. Ali Atiqah, U.N. resident representative here, denounced the continued actions by the U.S.-led alliance as a devastating war committed against Iraqi civilians and designed to destroy Iraq's economic and social infrastructure.

The note demanded that the U.S.-led invasion end and voiced the society's total solidarity with the Iraqi people and support for Baghdad's peaceful bids.

Referring to Washington's rejection of Iraq's call for peace and the continued hostilities, the note said that the continued aggression on Iraq exposed the U.S. aggressive plots directed against the Arab Nation and aimed at dominating Arab oil wealth.

The note reminded the United Nations that it should implement U.N. Security Council resolutions on Palestine which has been occupied over the past 23 years and said that continued defiance and occupation of Arab land.

It noted that Israel was being aided by the United States to consolidate and perpetuate its

occupation and oppress the Palestinian people.

The U.N. office was also visited Wednesday by a group of students representing the Arab Community College of Amman who marched in protest and carried posters condemning America's continued acts of aggression on the Iraqi people.

The marchers voiced support for the Arab people of Iraq and demanded that the United Nations end the hostilities.

In Irbid, students from Yarmouk University staged a march and a huge rally to express support for Iraq in the face of the aggression waged by the U.S.-led forces.

Posters carried by the students expressed support for the Iraqi people and condemnation of the barbaric attacks on the civilians.

Later, the Federation of Jordanian Students issued a strong statement denouncing the aggression and appealing to Arabs and Muslims to launch a holy war and fight alongside the Iraqi people against the United States and its allies.

In Karak, the local Popular Committee for Supporting Iraq issued a similar statement and called on the Arabs to unify their ranks in the face of the common danger.

Meanwhile, an Arab Health Emergency Committee

announced here Wednesday that it received JD 10,500 and unspecified quantities of jewellery from Al Jaabari family to be used in the course of channelling contributions to the Iraqi people.

The committee, which was formed by the Arab Doctors Union (ADU) also received JD 1,385 from workers in Al Dstour daily newspaper in contribution for the Iraqi people.

ADU secretary-general Dr. Hassan Khreis, who chairs the committee, said that his group has been taking charge of raising contributions and dispatching shipments of medicine to Iraq.

The committee has also taken charge of organising travel to Baghdad by groups of doctors and nurses from Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya.

Khreis said that a team representing the committee left Wednesday for a tour to the Arab Maghreb countries to hold talks on maintaining the service to the Iraqi people during and in the post-war time.

The team will meet with various professional unions to discuss opening committee branches in the Arab Maghreb countries which can organise shipments to Iraq, complementing the work of the Amman-based office.

Dr. Mamdouh Al Abbadi, president of the Jordanian Medical Association leads the team on the visit.

Lawyers strike to express solidarity with Iraq, anger at continuing aggression

AMMAN (J.T.) — In response to a call by the Arab Lawyers Union, Jordanian lawyers Wednesday held a general strike as a gesture to show their solidarity with the Iraqi people and to express their indignation at the U.S.-led forces' actions in the Gulf and their ongoing aggression on Iraqi territory.

Bar Association President Walid Abdul Hadi said in a statement that the strike was a show of commitment on the part of the Arab lawyers to the endeavours by the Arab masses to achieve security and freedom for all Arab states and to repel external danger by all means.

Arab lawyers and jurists stand together in the face of the U.S.-imperialist plots and condemn the

continued allied aggression on Iraq, Abdul Hadi said in his statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

What is happening against Iraq at the moment is a violation of international law and an infringement on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a United Nations member state, Abdul Hadi said.

There is no justification for the U.S.-led forces to pursue the fighting and to continue the bombing raids on Iraqi targets now that Iraqi forces have completely pulled out of Kuwait and the Baghdad government announced its acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 660, said Abdul Hadi.

He said the Americans and their allies were giving themselves the right to invade other countries at a time when they claim that they were liberating Kuwait.

Abdul Hadi demanded that the war be stopped and said that his association would do anything to provide help to the Iraqi people and display solidarity with them.

Referring to the one-day strike on Wednesday, Abdul Hadi said that it came in response not only to the Arab Lawyers Union but also to a call by the Arab Maghreb lawyers whose members had issued an appeal to the lawyers of the Arab World to carry out the strike to show solidarity with the Iraqi people.

Iraqi aid official praises Jordan's help

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society's international affairs department, Amid Abdul Hameed, Wednesday lauded the Jordan National Red Crescent Society's (JNRCS) role in extending assistance to the Iraqi people and helping the Iraqi society carry out its role.

Abdul Hameed said shortly before leaving Amman to Baghdad Wednesday that during his week-long stay in Amman he held talks with 25 Arab and international humanitarian organisations on issues related to sending relief material to the Iraqi people.

He said he also discussed with officials representing these organisations' future projects they

could carry out in Iraq after the U.S.-led allied forces bombed civilian places in Iraq.

The Iraqi official said he discussed with JNRCS officials issues pertaining to humanitarian aid and ways to deliver mail to Iraqi families.

The Iraqi society, he said, has sent an appeal to international humanitarian organisations to assist the Iraqi society in relief works and to send medicine, medical supplies and foodstuffs for the Iraqi people.

Abdul Hameed was seen off before departure by JNRCS deputy director general, Mohammad Miteq Al Hadid, and several officials.

GOETHE INSTITUTE AMMAN
IN MARCH AT THE
GOETHE-INSTITUTE
AMMAN

FILMS

Saturday, 2 March, 8 p.m.:

Die Brucke (The Bridge), 1959 (German; English Subtitles) directed by Bernhard Wicki.

An anti-war film which has won many awards. It stands out on account of its uncompromising honesty and vivid realism. Expressive photography and outstanding direction of the youthful cast. Perdicarte: Special merit.

Saturday, 9 March, 8 p.m., Video:

All Quiet on the Western Front, 1930/30, remake of 1958 (English) directed by Lewis Milestone.

Sunday, 10 March, 8 p.m., Video:
Im Westen nichts Neues, 1929/30, remake of 1984 (German) directed by Lewis Milestone.

A film after the novel by Erich Maria Remarque. It remains a great pacifist work. This film is neither an accusation nor a confession. It tries only to report about a generation who was destroyed by war although it escaped its grenades. Shown also Saturday, 9 March.

LECTURES

Tuesday, 5 March, 7 p.m., Lecture in English by Mr. Ammar Khammash: Architecture in Rural Jordan from Self-Sufficiency to Dependency on Manufactured Building Materials.

Tuesday, 12 March, 7 p.m., Lecture in English by Prof. Dr. Moawiya Ibrahim: The International Campaign for the Excavations at Tamna — Capital at the South Arabian Kingdom of Qataban.

Saturday, 16 March, 7 p.m., Lecture in English by Mr. Rami G. Khoury: Justice, Conflict and National Identity: The Political Archaeology of the Ancient and Contemporary Middle East.

Goethe Institute, Amman, Abdul Mun'im
Rifa'i Street
Jabal Amman, Tel. 641993

كلنا من العراق

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

جوردين تايمز جريدة عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

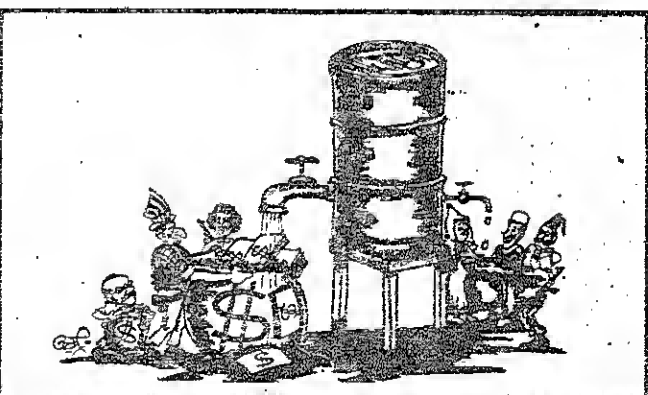
Now or never

THERE CANNOT be one explanation to the obvious feet-dragging by the U.S. and its allies at the United Nations Security Council over responding promptly to Iraq's acceptance of all resolutions of the council. And that is simple: Washington, which effectively calls every shot in the allied approach to the Gulf conflict, wants to afflict as much damage as possible to the Iraqi military and economy and to achieve its short-term strategic goals before agreeing to a ceasefire in the war. No doubt, these strategic goals include occupation of territory in southern Iraq as a strong bargaining chip in possible peace talks and political negotiations aimed at bringing about the changes that Washington seeks to achieve in Iraq.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney was only stating the obvious when he said Wednesday the U.S. would not be happy with just liberating Kuwait in line with the so-called U.N. mandate, but will also seek goals further than that. So much for the oft-repeated American assertion that the Bush administration was only a faithful instrument in the implementation — forced or otherwise — of U.N. resolutions.

But, we fail to find any call in any of the U.N. resolutions for the dastardly act of shooting withdrawing soldiers in the back — (where is the much touted military professionalism of the American soldier, we wonder) — or continue cruise missile attacks and bombardment of Baghdad after the "liberation" of Kuwait. Unless of course, the Americans now consider Iraq as a province of Kuwait which needs to be expunged of all Iraqis.

The allies have crossed the boundaries of all accepted conduct of war, not to mention the very irony that a Third World country has been battered into smithereens by a coalition of 29 countries — Israel cannot but be the invisible kingpin of the gang — with some of the most sophisticated weaponry ever used in a war. They have already incurred the life-long wrath of every self-respecting Arab. It is only a matter of time before they will start paying the price, no matter what the outcome of the Gulf war. To the self-professed moralist Europeans we say, the time to speak out and act to put an end to the crimes against humanity being committed in the Gulf by your friends Americans is now, or never.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WITH the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the whole Gulf crisis returns to square one and the Arab and Islamic world will have to confront the issue once again because the Iraqis were told not to remain in Kuwait and the world had rallied forces against Baghdad which was trying to find a settlement to the problem, said Al Ra'i daily. The paper said that the withdrawal ends all U.S. pretexts for not only launching war on Iraq but also for American presence in the Arabian peninsula; and thwarts the allied forces attempts to maintain their conspiracies in the Arab region. The U.S.-Zionist alliance had launched a devastating aggression which destroyed Iraq's economic infrastructure, churches and mosques and cultural centres, and has killed thousands of innocent civilians hiding from the bombing raids, the paper noted. As if this was not enough the allied forces, including the regimes in Ankara and Cairo, are not hiding their desire to pursue the destruction of Iraq and to offer a valuable service to the Israeli enemy, said the paper. Al Ra'i said that Turkey and Egypt are striving to pull behind them into the circle of treachery all the Arab and Islamic nations, and are trying to force these countries to recognise the Zionist regime and to establish normal relations with Israel; and for this reason they are carrying on with the fight against Iraq hand in hand with the U.S.-Zionist alliance. The paper said that the crimes committed by the U.S.-led forces in Iraq can never be forgotten, and it is up to the Arab and Muslim worlds to find a way to deal with consequences and to abort all Zionist-imperialist plots in the Arab region.

Al Dustour for its part said the United States has ridiculed the U.N. Security Council and international legality by ignoring all calls for a ceasefire in the Gulf and by declaring that the aggressors will pursue their evil task, President Bush had earlier demanded that Iraq pull out of Kuwait so that the allied forces can stop fighting, but now that the Iraqis had pulled out it is pursuing its aggression and disregarding any call for a truce, the paper noted. It said that the continued bombardment of Iraqi towns and armed forces clearly exposes Washington's desire of completing the destruction of Iraq as has been demanded by Israel and the Zionist lobby in America. It is clear that under the U.N. Security Council umbrella, the United States is now exploiting the international community and its will; and is trying to achieve U.S.-Zionist goals through the U.N. resolutions, the paper noted. The more the United States shows its true colours to the world, and the more pressure it continues to apply on other nations to comply to its wishes, the paper said, the more grows our respect for the Iraqis who have heroically stood up to the aggression, and exposed the real nature of the colonial forces of the world.

War goes on, writers say

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian columnists Wednesday agreed that the war was continuing, that Iraq will still put up a good fight and that the intention of the U.S. and its allies was never the liberation of Kuwait nor the defence of international legitimacy but rather the destruction of Iraq and its armed forces and the overthrow of its leadership.

"Even if a ceasefire was achieved, this war, waged by the Imperialists, Zionists and backward Arabs, will continue to rage," Tareq Masarweh, a leading columnist, wrote in Al Ra'i daily.

The Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait is not a retreat, wrote Sultan Hattab, the former editor of Al Sba'ab. "Iraqis have started their withdrawal from the beginning of the ground war because they realised the intention was not the liberation of Kuwait but the destruction of Iraq itself," Hattab wrote.

Iraqis are victorious because they could stand up against the largest coalition since World War II, said another Al Ra'i columnist, Bader Abdul Haq. "Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait is not a defeat. When the Soviets left Afghanistan nobody could say they were defeated," wrote Abdul Haq, member of the executive committee of Jordan's Writers Association.

As when it decided to take over Kuwait, Iraq's decision to

withdraw is as courageous, wrote Al Ra'i Editor in Chief Mahmoud Al Kayed.

The battle waged by Iraq for Kuwait is part of the Arab renaissance. "Saddam Hussein led the battle with resolve, but fate resisted," Al Kayed said.

Fa'id Al Fanek, an economist, Arab nationalist and leading columnist, said the battle was not military but political. He said that while he guarded against turning defeats into victories, Iraq's retreat in front of a coalition of 30 countries was not a defeat but was an inevitable end. "Iraq has achieved a political victory, and the U.S. political losses are immeasurable," Al Fanek wrote.

The belief that the allied forces' intentions were to destroy Iraq and bring it to its knees was echoed by most columnists and writers Wednesday.

"The objectives of the Imperialist invaders are clear," Abdul Rahim Omar, Jordan's Writers Association President said. "While the French are talking about the occupation of south Iraq until Kuwait got reparations, the British are declaring they want to destroy the Republican Guard and the Americans maintain the war is continuing."

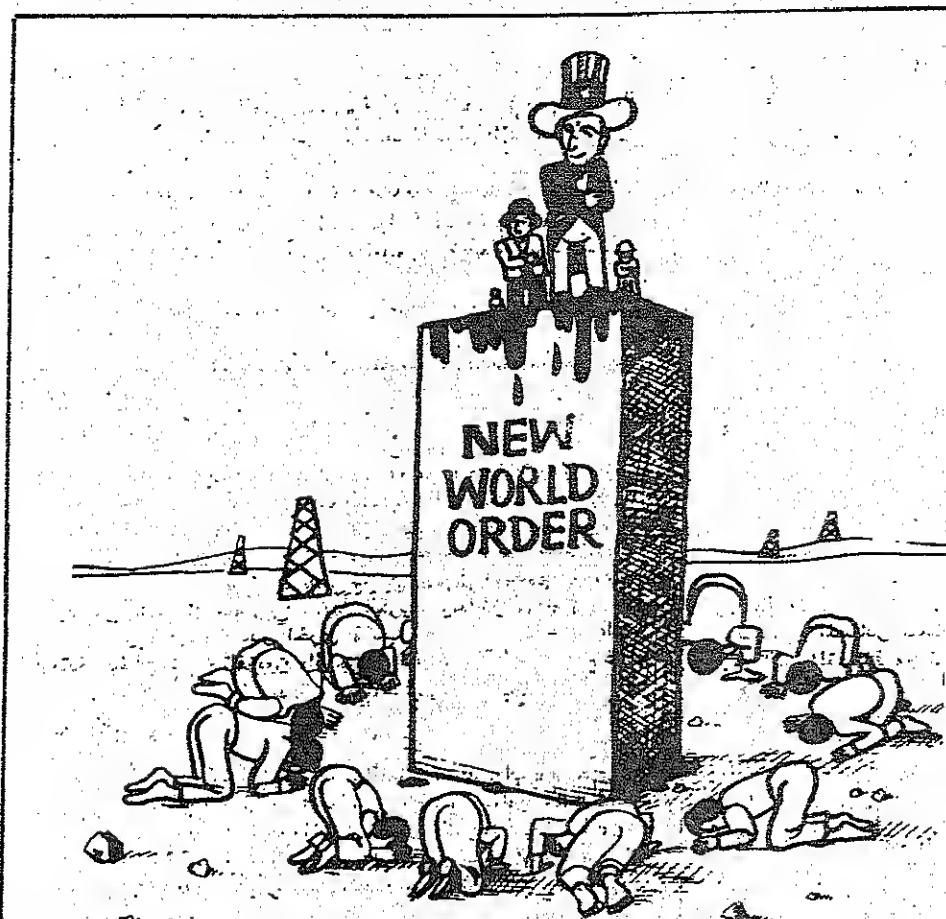
This continued war against Iraq, after its forces left Kuwait, is a clear indication that the anti-Iraq coalition wants to subjugate Iraq, des-

troys its armed forces, control its oil resources and make sure it will have no role to play in the Arab-Israeli struggle, Mahmoud Rimawi wrote in Al Ra'i.

In one article completely devoted to the French role in the campaign against Iraq, Mohammad Sodqi Masaadeh wrote in Al Shaab newspaper that the French history in the Middle East since the middle ages was a black one. Masaadeh recalls that the first and the second crusades were led by the French. During the first crusade the French killed 100,000 Arabs in Syria and 70,000 in Jerusalem alone. He recalls how Giraud who entered Syria in World War I stood on Saladin's grave and Damascus and declared "the Crusades are now over."

Arabs should not forget that France has had ambitions to control the region's resources for a long time. "Arabs who have faith in French President Francois Mitterrand have not read French history," Masaadeh said.

One writer, Mohammad Kharoub, had very strong words for those who turned into "mourners" decrying Iraq's "defeat." "The mourners must shut up," Kharoub wrote. "This is not the time for criticism and self-criticism, the battle is very big in a world turned brutal and hypocritical."



Al Fajr/Jerusalem

LETTERS

Mercy on children

To the Editor:

I would appreciate it if you could publish the following as an open letter to U.S. President George Bush and company:

My eleven-year-old son recently drew a war poster. On it was written "Bush the child killer." That is exactly what you are Mr. President. Your cruel and relentless policy has already taken the lives of six to seven thousand innocent Iraqi citizens. Just one of your high tech bombs killed hundreds including children in a civilian shelter on Feb. 13 as the world watched in horror. But still the round the clock bombing continues and you claim you have no quarrel with the Iraqi people. You have set a precedent in history for instant mass-murder.

Children are the light of the world; they are the latest gift from God, they are the new generation. That is why it is such a horrendous crime to murder a single child or the woman who bears them.

The five-year-old children who burnt to death in that Iraqi shelter will never have the joys of childhood, feasts, or even a chance to grow up. You made sure of that. You, Mr. President, should never enter a conference room or a symposium which deals with children's welfare — because you are a child killer. Retire into oblivion and give the world a chance for peace. You and your evil entourage conspired against Iraq and the Arab Nation. You know that. You cannot even accept a ceasefire — you have blood and not saliva in your mouth, which can only utter lies. Let another American step in and resolve the terrible mess you have gotten your fellow countrymen into.

You, Perez de Cuellar, are responsible for the welfare of children in the nations. Your organisation's resolutions let a monster loose and killed innocent children. Do you remember your childhood Perez de Cuellar? You have plucked these flowers from the face of the earth. Blood is on your hands. It can never be washed off. "Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather the multitudinous seas incarnadine, making the green one red" (Macbeth). Mr. Secretary General, you should step down and pray for forgiveness.

Mr. Billy Graham! Not much is said or written about, but you lurk in the shadows. You were with George Bush the night he signed the declaration of war. You are his friend and adviser. What went wrong with your advice? You profess to be the spiritual leader and evangelist of the Christian world. By being with him, you absolved George Bush from his crimes against humanity. You are the angel of darkness. No true believer in God could unleash such horrendous massacres against innocent people — Iraqis and Palestinians. Your sin is worse than theirs because you speak in the name of God. Of course you know the story of the widow's mite in the scriptures. Mr. Graham. It shows that God has always been on the side of the poor, oppressed and victimised peoples of the world, not the rich and powerful. There are thousands of Arab Muslim widows whose humble worship and innocent submission to God places them before you in God's eyes, with all your money and evangelical hypocrisy. Read your scriptures again, don't twist them for your president's perverse purposes. "Thou shalt not kill" — Mr. Graham under any circumstances. Your spiritual advice enables a high-powered cowardly force to kill.

Finally a message to that "unknown" soldier who pressed the button that unleashed the deadly bomb from an aeroplane. How do you feel now? Just following orders? Just a military mistake you might say. You are a human being — God gave you a will. You have a will which can say "no" — you and your fellow servicemen. Put down your arms, all of you! They can't countermarch half a million soldiers! We know most of you don't want to be there anyway — work for your will not against it and may God give you strength in this.

One final message to Bush. You offer us a "new world order" which is in fact an order to kill anyone who stands in the way of your murderous schemes. A world order of peace and harmony cannot be built on violence and the blood of others. Others before you have tried and failed, Mr. President.

Ahmed Kalaaji,

A mother and teacher of children.

Human kind

To the Editor:

The International Red Cross warned on Feb. 19 of the impending danger to Iraqi children of various epidemics that may befall them in the next few days. Apparently, for some reason that escapes me, the water supply, electric power and health services have been completely broken down in most Iraqi towns. Even though I am sure U.S. President George Bush has nothing to do with it (his goal was to liberate Kuwait, so he would not hit civilians now, would he?), I appeal to America's sense of human dignity and human rights to help the Iraqis out of their misery.

Bush's first impression would be to turn me down as much as he would hate to (I am sure). He is certainly preoccupied with liberating Kuwait and returning it to its legal democratically elected rulers. I am sure that he is worried about the American soldiers dragged into a war they did not really want to get

involved in, risking their lives to uphold democracy and the dignity of mankind. Believe me, the whole mankind can never do enough to repay George Bush for all the trouble he has taken to maintain peace in the world, the number of holidays he had to interrupt in order to run the affairs of the world and design the new world order. We are all very grateful.

But I must impose on his kindness yet again. These Iraqi children need help seriously and fast, and he is the only one I can turn to.

It is very simple really. All he has to do is to send more of his Stealth (remember the civilian shelter of Al Amriyeh) and B-52 bombers over Iraq, and zap the rest of them to hell. Nothing could be more humane. He would be putting these children out of their misery, and helping them to avoid running the risk of cholera, pestilence and all those other God-awful epidemics with Latin names. He would be doing them a favour. Can you imagine all these children running around with these diseases, their suffering? And while he is at it, he may want to consider putting the rest of the Iraqi civilians out of action. After all, the whole world knows that the only way to liberate Kuwait is to kill as many of those "nasty" Iraqi civilians as possible. Who knows, if some of them stay alive, they may crawl all the way to Kuwait and fight Bush's GI's with hand and tooth. Nobody in his right mind would want to see that happen.

To borrow from Shakespeare,

When the burly-burly's done
When the battle is lost and won

the whole world will be eternally thankful to President Bush, and to the American people who supported him, for ridding mankind of these Iraqi children and the threat they pose to the health and well-being of humankind.

C.V. Mohan,
Amman.

'Scuddy'

To the Editor:

This is about Sana Atiyeh's "Scuddy" article. Funny, but no cigar. As a matter of fact, such articles that come with laughs in order to implant erroneous ideas in our minds as they sneak through our press are a dangerous tool of psychological warfare used by the enemy in an effort to undermine our morals. This article emphasized four such ideas, and I quote:

"... may or may not have been very accurate in finding the rights targets"

"Call it what you will; Al Hussein, Al Abbas and what not, but the term 'Scud' is here to stay"

"the Soviet-made Scud ... The 'missile of the sixties' - Al Hussein as the Iraqis call it"

"... landed on Israel causing no damage or injuries"

Such ideas are only intended to undermine our confidence in the abilities of an Arab country to develop arms that work; for if they did, it was only a minor development of an ancient Soviet weapon which causes no damage or injuries.

The facts are that the missiles used by Iraq referred to in Ms. Atiyeh's article are "Al Hussein" not "Scud," and are developed from the Soviet Scud missiles (as the car was developed from the cart) in range (three times the original), payload (less than the original), and — most important — guiding system (Israeli officials were quoted as saying that they are sure the missiles are landing exactly where the Iraqis want them to).

I am sure that the writer of the said article did not mean any harm here, but merely fell unwittingly into employing enemy style in an effort to tell a joke. I do not blame the press for publishing what they receive without scrutiny as we should uphold the freedom of the press. As such I am sure you will publish this letter so that your readers are aware of the hidden message and treat such articles accordingly.

Khaled B. Dajani,
P.O. Box 830505,
Amman - Jordan.

To all those who worry

To the Editor:

To my friends: The anger and anxieties that many of us feel might be due to our feeling of helplessness, and due to our great disappointment from the betrayal of the Arab leaders who aligned themselves with the enemy and some other Arab leaders who only provided lip service support for Iraq in its glorious confrontation. It is not Saddam's occupation of Kuwait we should blame for our anxieties.

To everybody who talks about the increased "Arab capital flight" since Aug. 2: Long before Aug. 2 there was hardly ever any Arab capital in the Arab World to fly anywhere. Arab wealth and the billions of petrodollars that everyone is worried about have always been where they are today: in Western banks and institutions. Anybody who ever dreamed that this money was actually for the Arab people was really only dreaming.

To all those who are worried about what happened to all the poor

Palestinians of Kuwait due to the events since Aug. 2: Long before Aug. 2, all Palestinians were being treated as third class citizens (after the original Kuwaitis and the blond, blue-eyed Westerner). One example is that the sons of the Palestinians who contributed to the building of Kuwait and who were born there were being kicked out of the only country they ever knew at the age of 18. Perhaps it is better for all these Palestinians to start thinking now of how their situation was in Kuwait before they would have been slowly replaced by more obedient servants from poorer parts of the world.

To all those who fear that a solution to the Palestinian problem has become more difficult: The Iraqi takeover of Kuwait has only opened the eyes of the world to its own double standards and hypocrisy towards the Palestinians. In its war with the U.S. and "great Western civilised" nations, and its Al Hussein Scud attacks on Israel, Iraq has proven that neither Israel is "untouchable" nor is holding fast against the superpower bombardments impossible. Forty days of steadfastness by only one Arab country has revealed that the myth of "not being able to fight Israel because it would be fighting the U.S." is another big lie.

To all those worried about a shattered Arab unity due to the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait: What the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait showed was that Arab unity before the event was almost non-existent, and that all Arab institutions (i.e. the Arab League, Arab Cooperation Council, Maghreb Cooperation Council, etc.) unfortunately were simply a big lie. Maybe revealing this fact as one of the results of the Iraqi takeover is actually an achievement for the Arab people in order to wake up from their slumber and start to deal with such realities.

To all those worried about a creation of a new Sykes-Picot arrangement and a new fiercer and more evident colonisation of the Arab World: Another fact that the events revealed was that Sykes-Picot actually never ceased to exist. Furthermore, Aug. 2 was actually an attempt to hammer at Sykes-Picot. It could not have been any more obvious that many of the Arab regimes, especially those that form part of the alliance, are actually colonies where only the foreign masters have changed, but the colonised stayed the same.

In a nutshell, Saddam Hussein, through the events, has succeeded in accurately diagnosing the Arab diseases. After this great breakthrough, now it is up to the Arab people to treat and cure them. (The diagnosis is the most important part of the treatment). The Iraqi president has also succeeded in bringing all the snakes out from their holes and into the open. For those who don't know, a snakecatcher will tell you that getting the snake out of its hole is the biggest task of getting rid of it. Therefore, as far as I'm concerned, Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi people have done more than their share of the Arab struggle for real freedom from Western social, economic, political and military colonisation.

The rest is up to all the Arab people who should either get rid of as many of the snakes as possible while they are out of their holes, or allow them to sneak back into their hideouts and continue to poison us all.

Mohammad Atiyeh,
Amman.

A real chance for peace, but ...

To the Editor:

Time and again, the allied forces under the leadership of the United States have been asking Saddam Hussein to submit to United Nations Security Council Resolution 660 which calls for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

Iraq has declared its readiness to accept Resolution 660 and pull its troops out of Kuwait. Though it is a conditional acceptance, nobody has to read between the lines to see that this declaration is clearly seeking peace, trying to solve all the problems of the region in the fairest way possible, and to prevent the world from the horrors which are yet to come.

The very first signs, the very first reactions, evoked more than clearly that allied forces do not want peace. The United States simply rebuffed the declaration, assuming that it is a trick, and is contradictory to the United Nations Security Council Resolutions in the sense that it is a conditional withdrawal. The British, French and Israeli reaction were no better, since all sided with their master and shut their ears to the Iraqi peace initiative.

Indeed, this attitude shocked many: the United States and allied forces have always demanded an Iraqi withdrawal. What they have in mind for the region is, as they claim, peace and stability; if so, the Iraqi peace initiative is a chance that may not come again, it is a chance to prove their good intentions, a chance to bring peace to the world instead of destroying it, and all they have to do is to grab this chance and hold on to it, if they are seeking peace wholeheartedly ...

But, their first reactions gave the people of the world evidence that, they have never intended any kind of peace or stability for this part of the world. The United States, England, France and Israel all have interests in this region, and submitting to such an initiative will be like a death sentence, especially, to the United States and Israel. Moreover, their cynical refusal proves what many honourable Arabs saw as an imperialist-Atlantic-Zionist attack aimed at destroying Iraq rather than "liberating Kuwait," as they claim.

Rana Abdel Rahim,
P.O. Box 2583,
Amman.

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Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

Feb. 28, 1991 A

Children dragged into mafia's net

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — Flush with the profits of drug-running, the mafia empire has brought a new tragedy to Italian society: Its victims are increasingly children, either murdered or sucked into a life of crime that often leads to an early death.

Schoolboy Giuseppe Aiello's short life came to an abrupt end after he turned up unexpectedly to help 37-year-old shepherd Giacomo Grimaudo with the milking in the hills above the Sicilian town of Caltagirone. Two mafia assassins arrive shortly afterwards to settle an old score with Grimaudo and, finding 12-year-old Giuseppe there too, killed him with a single bullet to the head.

In Casola, near Naples, 8-year-old Paolo Longobardi died along with his father Antonio when a gunman fired a powerful hunting rifle through the window of the boy's ground-floor bedroom. Paolo was the innocent victim of a camorra (local name for the mafia) feud. His father had made the mistake of being friends with a member of one of two rival gangs.

Less than 15 miles away, 12-year-old Andrea Esposito was murdered as he sipped a coffee after a night spent unloading trucks to earn a few dollars at a fruit and vegetable market to his home. The boy was taking his break when two hoods ran in and shot the man they were looking for, the bar-owner's son Antonio. Andrea had seen too much, and as he threw himself behind the counter for cover, one of the assassins followed him and held a pistol to the boy's head, killing him instantly. The murder of three children by mafia gunmen, in the space of just a few weeks, has made headlines in a country where youngsters are traditionally revered, and usually spared from the violence of organised crime. But almost more shocking is the news that the number one suspect for the killing of 12-year-old Andrea Esposito is himself barely 15. Police say the boy was ordered to carry out the executions by his own parents.

If the victims of mafia violence are becoming younger, say Italy's crime experts, so too are the fingers that are pulling the trigger. The new generation of juvenile assassins are known, somewhat misleadingly, as "baby-killers." They are motivated by a chance to earn prestige, make money and take their revenge on a society that they feel offers them very little, say magistrates who have sounded the alarm about the new phenomenon.

Not surprisingly, the highest concentrations of young gunmen are to be found in the areas where unemployment is more serious — in the south, and particularly in Naples, Calabria and parts of Sicily, where the number of jobless can exceed 30 per cent. In the city of Naples alone, there are several hundred teenage assassins for hire, according to estimates by officials at the Justice Ministry. In Calabria and Sicily the figure is already several thousand, say officials. In 1989, 102 youngsters were arrested for murder or attempted murder in Italy. In 1990, that figure was up by one third. The real extent of the problem is almost certainly far greater, given that in the south of Italy more than 80 per cent of murders go unsolved.

The move towards using younger assassins, say magistrates, is partly explained by an Italian law which protects children under the age of 14 from being tried for any crime, including murder. Catching young teenagers who are agile, street-wise and can disappear in seconds in the maze of narrow alleys in Palermo or Naples is difficult enough, say police. But on the rare occasions that they do make an arrest, the law demands that they take the young offenders straight home to their parents.

On a recent trip to Sicily, Italy's newly-installed Interior Minister Vincenzo Scotti spoke of the "urgent changes needed to be made in the juvenile laws." But others say the cause of the problem is more complex. "The main reason is the fact that there is a plentiful supply and you can hire a teenager of 13, 14 or 15 for very little money," said Palermo prosecuting magistrate Giuseppe Di Lello, who deals exclusively with mafia cases. "You can get someone murdered for as little as 1 million lire (\$900)." At a United Nations conference on crime prevention, held in Cuba, Federico Palomba, head of the juvenile section of Italy's Justice Ministry, raised the issue of the growing use of youngsters by organised crime gangs. "We need more resources, more men, and we need to act quickly," said Palomba, back in Italy. A study cited by the Italian official shows that youngsters who embark on the path of violent crime at an early age rarely come off it in later life. Of the 600 youths over 18-years-old being held in Naples' Poggio Reale Prison, almost all started their criminal careers as juvenile delinquents, says Palomba.

In order to tackle Italy's newest crime problem, Justice Minister Giuseppe Vassalli has asked that 50 billion lire (\$4.6 million), pledged by parliament as a boost for the judicial budget, should all be spent on the juvenile sector. Interior Minister Scotti has announced more funds for schools and social services in the four worst-hit cities of Naples, Palermo, Catania and Reggio Calabria. The problem, says Scotti, is "avoiding that young kids be left to themselves in an environment which uses them and re-uses them."

According to Palomba, youngsters become sucked into the world of organised crime for a variety of reasons. "Sometimes these young kids, who are living in very difficult economic circumstances, see the mafia gangs as the embodiment of a rebellion against the state, which has done nothing for them or their families," said Palomba. "It can also happen that groups of teenagers form gangs, to emulate the more dangerous, adult version they see every day."

That, say police, is precisely what happened in the Sicilian town of Gela, shortly before Christmas, when a gang war broke out between young mafia hoods fighting for control of the town's extortion racket. Eight people died, four of them teenagers, in the space of a few hours. Police say the four main suspects for the shootings are all in their teens or their very early twenties. At Butera secondary school, near Gela, headmistress Angela Aliotta accepts that many of her pupils are involved in juvenile crime, starting off with petty theft and moving on to drug trafficking. She has no way of knowing for sure, but it seems a reasonable guess that some of them may eventually end up being recruited as contract killers. The children spend little time at school, says Aliotta, and have no motivation to learn, an attitude that is instilled in them by their own parents, who are often poor, and themselves uneducated and unemployed. "They (the children's parents) are against them spending much time at school. For them, education is a trauma because it means taking away a member of the family who could be out earning money," said the headmistress.

Yet another, perhaps more disturbing reason for the involvement of youngsters in the world of organised crime is a dramatic change in the structure of the mafia itself, say criminologists. "Whereas in the past, gangs usually



revolved around a boss, these days, the mafia is often made up of entire families, which work like a small company and involve every single member, from the grandmother down to the grandchildren," said sociologist Pino Arlacchi, acknowledged as one of the foremost authorities on the mafia. "The traditional head of the family may not be able to take care of things, because he is involved in other illegal activities, or is in jail, or hiding, or even dead," he added. "So the women and children become caught up in it as well."

Thus, the 15-year-old boy suspected of killing 12-year-old Andrea Esposito is the son of a couple who both have convictions for links with the camorra, the Neapolitan version of the mafia. In a world where the prizes to be had from drug trafficking are ever higher, and the

rivalry between gangs ever more bitter, the spiral of violence will continue rising, say those involved in fighting the mafia's international network. "There is a new ferocity and a willingness to murder, with no rules or respect," said Cesare Salvi, a member of the Italian parliament's anti-mafia commission. "The killing of children, and the use of teenagers as hired assassins are really part of the same story."

Said Silvio Sacchi, assistant public prosecutor near Naples: "In some parts of this region, I've heard of cases where young boys are given a pistol for their first holy communion. The donor is invariably a local 'man of honour' (the mafia's own expression for a member of the network), usually a relative or a friend of the family." — World News Link.

In dedication to Amneh

By E. Yaghi

A violet by a mossy stone
Half hidden from the eye
Fair as a star, when only one
Is shining in the sky.

What can be said to someone who is dying? What choice words can ease the sharpness of reality? What rosy thoughts could I say to my dearest sister who rocked herself in pain as she sat most of my visit with her eyes closed, trying not to shut out her visitors, but only trying to buffer her agony.

In her room, my sister Amneh had her radio turned on as if to keep her company in her lone vigil of suffering. I looked out of the window as the gray blue sky and the grey buildings. A group of pigeons soared and battered the day with their wings. I remembered that death was ravaging Iraq and now too had come to visit my sister. My sister remained fixed out of the window as salty tears silently rolled down my cheeks and a stabbing pain clutched my heart.

Amneh's daughter entered the bedroom where I and two other sisters surrounded her mother. In her hands she bore a tray and on her face she wore a sweet smile while her young eyes sparkled in unknowing innocence as she said, "How about some fruit? Mama, shall I peel an orange for you, or how about a cucumber?"

Amneh opened one eye and replied, "No dear, I don't feel like eating. I don't have an appetite."

However, one of her sisters who was always like a ray of sunshine insisted, "come on, don't be silly. Of course you're weak and tired because you don't eat. How you expect to get well?"

Reluctantly, Amneh ate a small portion and drank a warm glass of milk, but she knew as we all did that her disease was terminal and her strength to fight was increasingly failing.

She sank back on her bed and closed her eyes again. I sat with my tears camouflaged and bit my lip. I remembered all the torture Amneh had gone through with chemotherapy. I remembered the surgery that she had to undergo to cut off the cancerous offender and how, because she was a slow healer and allergic to most medications, her then recovery had been sluggish and tedious.

To make matters worse, while she was recuperating, her youngest son, who felt deserted without his mother, had to also endure corrective heart surgery. The small child was taken to the OR without his mother's hand to soothe his troubled brow. It wasn't until later that Amneh was told of her son's surgery. One day, the young boy, stitches still fresh, was allowed to visit his mother who was still in the hospital and said, "Mama, how are you? I had an operation too, but now I'm fine. When are you coming home? I miss you so much." He then grabbed his mother by the neck and pulled her towards him and planted a sticky kiss on her forehead.

After some length of time, Amneh went home too, but for three years became a regular monthly patient at a cancer centre where she underwent exhaustive chemotherapy treatment. She not only had to battle for her life, but she had to deal with the ignorance of some who thought her illness shameful or contagious. There are so many misconceptions about cancer. Nevertheless, Amneh was very brave and carried on her life as she had before. Some had expected her to retreat to a shell and avoid further contact with life and people, but Amneh didn't hide. She wasn't ashamed. As soon as she recovered, she was out to visit friends and relatives and helped dispel some of the notions concerning cancer.

She retained her piety, her faith in God and her inner beauty. She led as normal a life as possible until her illness crept and spread to all parts of her body. Her rapid physical decline began one month after the commencement of the Gulf war. While the Iraqis were being bombed, dying and suffering untold injuries by the American-led coalition, was fighting her own struggle for survival. In spite of her silent battle, she kept in step with the news and could always recount the latest combat events to anyone.

At last, unable to conceal her decline any longer, she retreated to her bed where she waited with intense pain for the inevitable. Her darling young son who underwent successful heart surgery is now a very healthy young boy with big brown eyes and curly hair who bounces all over his house in fervent activity. But who can explain to him that one day he will not have his "Mama"? Who can tell her daughter who is studying abroad and was coddled by her mother's love that she won't ever see her mother again? How can any imminent death be adequately explained?

My tears dried, we bade our dearest Amneh farewell. That day was the last time I saw her alive. Two days later, when Jordan began its official mourning for the bombing of the Amiriyah bomb shelter in Baghdad, she gave up her struggle and was finally freed from pain. I came to understand how many people really loved her. I witnessed again how short life actually is. How people rush and scramble to build and hoard and then leave this world with money, children, relatives and friends behind. Each one only takes his deeds with him to his grave and it is those deeds that prepare the kind of life he will have in the hereafter.

I am very sad that I lost my dearest sister. I am as sad that her children will grow without their mother. But, I am proud to have known this wonderful woman and feel that I must always try to live up to her standards. I do not envy riches. I do not envy prestige. If envy is permissible, I would only envy piety, faith and worship of God, for these are the foundations for life in the hereafter.

All in all, I think Amneh's death was a small miracle. She died Thursday afternoon. Thursday evening she was taken to a mosque near a cemetery. Because it was Friday eve, a lesson was being held in the mosque which happened to be quite large. The faithful that night were numerous and the Imam was surprised that this woman had seemingly died at the appropriate time for nearly 5,000 worshippers to pray for her soul. Everyone at the mosque told others, "this woman must be very religious. Look at all the people who are here at just the right moment. For certain, she is going to go to heaven!"

I will always miss my dear Amneh. Her passing away has been our loss. Life will be difficult for her children who are trying to be brave without their beloved mother. Even though my tears are outwardly dry now, they shall fall forever in my heart for one of the purest saint-like women I have ever known. May God make her journey comfortable for her, bless her soul and may she rest in peace!

She lived unknown, and few could know
When Lucy ceased to be;
But she is in her grave, and O,
The difference to me!
William Wordsworth,
"She Dwelt Among the Untrodden Ways."

S. Africa's education crisis is lingering apartheid legacy

By Rich Mkhondo
Reuter

MAMELODI, South Africa — Chanting "pass one, pass all," hundreds of black South African school students recently assaulted their teachers and demanded promotion to higher classes.

Some teachers gave in, promoting pupils who had not sat the required examinations.

It makes no difference: Students in this black township near Pretoria are likely to end their school careers without a proper education, whatever happens now.

They are victims of a deepening crisis in black education in racially-segregated South Africa which political reforms have hardly begun to touch.

A gaping disparity in quali-

ty between white and black schools is compounded by the effects of decades of deliberately sub-standard schooling for the black majority, educationists say.

There are four school systems — for whites, Asians, mixed-race coloureds and blacks — under the apartheid system now being dismantled by President F.W. de Klerk.

Pretoria still spends four times as much on a white child's education as it does on that of a black child. School, compulsory for whites, is voluntary for blacks in most areas, reflecting the apartheid doctrine that blacks are fit only for menial work.

The result: Up to half of the country's black adults are illiterate while half of school-age youngsters do not attend classes, some business organisations estimate.

One day soon, De Klerk is

due to discuss the crisis in black education with anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress (ANC), who demands a united non-racial education system.

De Klerk wants Mandela to encourage black participation in designing interim improvements to black schools ahead of final constitutional reforms, officials said.

In January, the government announced the worst black exam results since schooling for blacks was introduced in 1954. Only 36 per cent of the 233,000 students who sat for last year's school leaving examinations passed.

The pass rate for whites was 97 per cent, for Asians 95 per cent and for coloureds 79 per cent.

Of the black students who passed, only eight per cent

obtained minimum grades required for admission to universities.

"South Africa will ultimately depend on black skills and expertise to compete with successful nations in the world. If this country has to survive the future, then it has to deal with this fact," said the biggest black daily, the Sowetan.

"There is no hope for stability if black matriculation results continue to be this bad," the paper added.

Last year, millions of students spent 75 per cent of their tuition time outside class. They were either boycotting lessons to press political or academic demands or were idle due to a wage strike by teachers.

This year 205 of the country's 2,500 previously whites-only schools have opened their doors to blacks under a

reform allowing parents to vote on whether their children's school should accept all races.

But the 205 schools can take only 6,500 black students out of a black school-age population of more than seven million.

"Year after year we have complained about the paltry sums spent on black education compared to white education," wrote black newspaper editor Khulu Sibi.

"We have also complained of overcrowding at our schools, lack of books, underqualified teacher and ill-equipped classrooms. The list is endless," he said.

Classes are still overcrowded and the teacher-pupil ratio has not dropped from last year's all-time high of one to 90 in some schools.

There are few libraries and laboratories.

"Conditions in school have not changed, and unless some drastic measures are taken, major problems will present themselves again this year," Soweto educationist David Maepa said.

South Africa has boosted black education's budget by 1,000 per cent since 1978 but still spends the equivalent of about 3,000 rands (\$1,200) a year on a white child compared with 800 rands (\$300) a year on a black child.

Educationist say achieving educational parity between blacks and whites would cost the government about 56 billion rands (\$22 billion).

Analysts say the education crisis poses long term problems.

Black school-leavers have swollen the ranks of the jobless by 250,000 a year for the past decade.

مكتبة النور

At grandma's house

By Maha Addasi

WHAT is the secret between grandmothers and their grandchildren? It seems to me that grannies love anything and everything their grandchildren do, no matter how much damage that "doing" entails. Maybe this is because the grandmother is sure the grandchildren are going to be over for only a few hours, and then it's "bye, bye," back to their own house. But the mutual understanding, that seemed to have skipped a generation between grandmothers and grandchildren still exists even when the grandmother lives in the same house.

It is not unusual that if a grandchild spills grape juice on the carpet, grandma's reaction: "It's not the end of the world, it's alright."

The mother's reaction, in turn, to the same spill as she shows the new house to her friends: "See this," she says pointing to the indelible mark on the carpet, as her kid visibly cringes with embarrassment before the guests. "This is the mark Jason left when he spilled the grape juice on the brand new carpet when we first moved in."

When a kid grabs a handful of leaves off a house plant in his grandmother's presence, the grandmother's reaction is: "Ooh, how cute. Look how delicately Jason plucked the leaves with his itty bitty little fingers."

As for the mother, she would hover over the plants in the first place, not allowing her child to come anywhere near them and give out a good lashing if he gets too close. The usual situation is that the grandmother is always relaxed in her ways, while the mother is almost always uptight and constantly running out of patience.

According to some grandmothers, their duty in life is to spoil, spoil, spoil their grandchildren in order to atone for the many hard times their daughters (the mothers of their grandchildren) gave them (the grandmothers) when they (the daughters) were growing up.

So under the "guise" of everlasting love for her grandchildren the grandmother says things like "don't be too hard on the children dear," as motherly advice to the daughter regarding her rightful disciplining of her children.

Of course the junk food law is broken. "No cookies before dinner Jason," says the mother. As the grandmother is giving Jason a plateful of home-made cookies, saying that she is sure that Jason would only eat two and leave the rest of the cookies till after dinner.

"Relax, this situation puts Jason in a responsible position," the grandmother tells Jason's mother, who is groaning by that time. All the things she took painstaking time to teach her little Jason have been undone like shoelaces, in a matter of seconds. Now the mother is going to both spend the time until the next visit bouncing comments and indignant remarks like, "but grandma let me do this all the time," and disciplining the little "monster," or if she's really "lucky," her "monsters."

But there are double standards as far as grandmothers are concerned. If you take this very game grandmother and bring over a couple of kids who are not related to her in any way and they, as much as change the TV channel without taking her permission, she would consider these children undisciplined and is outraged when their mother neither looks up to locate where her children are, nor cares if the Christoph vase has, thanks to her kids, been smashed into smithereens. That is when this grandmother puts her foot down and hangs up a sign outside the house saying "no children allowed in this house, until they all grow up."



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By Peter Millership
Reuter

20 years on, British decimalisation isn't so bad after all

LONDON — Twenty years after Britain dropped its pound, shilling and pence currency and adopted a decimal system, a nation that greeted the change with outrage wonders what all the fuss was about.

It did not, as traditionalists feared, trigger a stampede to standardisation. The shift to a European Community-style metric system has, instead, been gradual and marked by compromise.

The British still pour their lukewarm beer in one pint (0.568 litre) measures. Cars still drive on the left-hand side of the road and their speed is still measured in miles per hour.

Filling stations show prices per (imperial) gallon as well as per litre.

In retrospect, Britons say, decimalising the currency was a trauma, but it could have been worse.

Millions of new decimal coins flooded into cash registers Monday, Feb. 15, 1971.

That was the year when hot pants were in fashion, the U.S. Apollo 14 spacecraft landed on the moon and Idi Amin made himself president of Uganda.

Out went the old pound, which had been divided into 20 shillings each of 12 pence for a millennium. In came the

100 new pence pound. "There was a feeling that it marked the end of 1,000 years," said Graham Dyer, curator at the Royal Mint in London.

"It affected every single person in the country in every aspect of life... buying a newspaper, doing the shopping. People were worried."

One big fear at the time was that traditional ale would soon be poured by the litre. "This would have torn down a bastion of our culture," said one beer drinker.

The old currency — the penny coin was used in Anglo Saxon times — was known as L.S.D. from the Latin Libra, Solidus and Denarius.

The change was among prelude to Britain joining the European Community in 1973.

An economist said: "In hindsight there were genuine fears that greater integration with Europe was another step towards losing our national identity."

A public campaign emerged to unmask "decimal

sharks" who tried to swindle unsuspecting old people as they struggled to calculate the conversion from new money back into old.

The young found the change easier to cope with but some street buskers declined new money, wanting instead "real money."

Britain's coinage underwent more changes in the period of decimalisation than in any other comparable time in history.

"Inflation tends to take coins off the bottom of the range and put them on the top," said Dyer, who lamented the fact that a schoolboy now would never find a coin older than 40 years or so.

"In my day you could be in the happy position of discovering a Victorian penny in your change," he said.

Some people, upholding the British eccentric tradition, stuck to their guns in the face of decimalisation.

In 1987 grocer Francis Elliott, 89, finally shut up shop after a 16-year protest.

He kept his old till and charged in pounds, shillings and pence to the end.

There were other much-publicised examples. The King's Head Pub in London's Islington district still charges in old money because the licensee is "into keeping up Victorian values."

Publican Kevin Freeman tells you what the bar bill is in the old coinage and you have to work out the equivalent in today's money.

"Some drinkers find it quaint, some novel. Regulars accept it but some customers are just downright confused," he says.

The 1971 upheaval rocked financial system. Cheques had to be changed and accounting systems overhauled. Vending and telephone machines needed a facelift.

Children took the new currency in their stride.

In early 1971, one little boy added his own touch to the tradition of leaving a lost milk tooth under the pillow so that the fabled "tooth fairy" would replace it with an old sixpence. He left a decimal conversion chart, too.

For many pupils in British schools, however, the biggest potential boon of going decimal has never materialised. They still have to learn the 12 times table.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Feb. 28

1594 — Britain's royal physician Roger Loper is arrested for alleged conspiracy to poison Queen Elizabeth.

1653 — English fleet defeats Dutch off Portland, England.

1806 — Austria joins Napoleon Bonaparte's "continental system" — French forces capture Barcelona, Spain.

1825 — Britain and Russia sign treaty covering respective rights in Pacific Ocean area.

1868 — Benjamin Disraeli replaces Lord Derby as Britain's prime minister.

1876 — Carlist War in Spain ends with flight of Don Carlos.

1877 — Peace treaty is signed between Turkey and Serbia.

1911 — Australia's Premier Andrew Fisher announces plans to nationalise monopolies.

1920 — Hungarian constitution is adopted.

1933 — Nazi decree suppresses civil liberties in Germany.

1942 — Japanese forces land in Java, Indonesia, in World War II.

1956 — India and Indonesia sign mutual aid treaty.

1962 — United States announces that new atomic tests will be conducted in atmosphere near Johnson Island in Pacific.

1974 — United States and Egypt reestablish diplomatic relations after seven-year breach.

1987 — Philippines President Corason Aquino announces "full and complete amnesty" to Communist rebels who lay down their arms.

1989 — Israeli warplanes attack Palestinian bases in Beirut.

1990 — Soviet legislature passes landmark law allowing citizens to acquire land and bequeath it to their children.

Friday, March 1

1553 — League of Heidelberg is formed by Catholic and Protestant princes in German to prevent election of Philip of Spain as Holy Roman Emperor.

1562 — 1,200 French Huguenots are slain at massacre of Vassy, provoking first war of religion in France.

1767 — King Charles III expels Roman Catholic Jesuits from Spain.

1799 — Turks and Russians complete conquest of Ionian Islands in Greece.

1811 — Mehmet Ali massacres the Manelukes at Cairo, Egypt.

1815 — Napoleon Bonaparte lands in France, forcing King Louis XVIII to flee.

1870 — War ends between Paraguay and combined forces of Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.

1896 — Ethiopian forces defeat Italians at Adowa, northern Ethiopia, forcing Italy to sue for peace.

1932 — Infant son of U.S. aviation pioneer, Charles Lindbergh is kidnapped from New Jersey home.

1943 — Britain's Royal Air Force begins systematic bombing of European railway systems in World War II.

1954 — First conference of Organisation of American States opens in Caracas, Venezuela.

1961 — U.S. President John F. Kennedy establishes the Peace Corps.

1966 — Soviet Union lands one-ton spacecraft on planet Venus after three and one-half month flight.

1988 — South African government introduces bill to outlaw foreign funding of political activity.

1989 — U.N. General Assembly approves \$416 million for U.N.'s one-year plan to free Namibia from 74 years of South African rule.

1990 — Fire at Sheraton Hotel in Cairo kills 16 people.

Saturday, March 2

1502 — Prince Ferrane of Naples is sent to Spain as prisoner.

1503 — Venice signs treaty with Turks, abandoning Lepanto but retaining some Ionian Islands.

1678 — French forces of King Louis XIV capture Ghent and Ypres in Belgium.

1776 — U.S. Marines fight first battle, capturing British fort in Bahamas in revolutionary war.

1801 — War of the Oranges with Portugal is declared by Spain.

1815 — Dominion of Kandyan provinces, within British Empire, is formed in Ceylon.

1909 — European powers intervene to prevent Serbo-Austrian war.

1949 — U.S. B-50 Superfort plane lands at Fort Worth, Texas, after completing first nonstop flight around world.

1955 — Egypt and Syria sign defensive alliance.

1956 — France recognises independence of Morocco; Pakistan decides to stay in British Commonwealth.

1962 — General Ne Win overthrows Premier U Nu in Burmese military coup.

1972 — U.S. spacecraft Pioneer 10 is launched on mission to explore environs of planet Jupiter.

1975 — Bombing of bus in Nairobi, Kenya, kills 27 people and injures about 100.

1989 — Thousands of soldiers patrol Venezuela's capitol of Caracas after overnight battles with snipers.

1990 — Miners in the Soviet Ukraine go out on strike.

Sunday, March 3

1638 — Franco-Swedish alliance is renewed for three years.

1707 — Mogul Emperor Aurangzeb dies in India and is succeeded by Bahadur.

1808 — French forces under Joachim Murat occupy Madrid.

1813 — Britain signs Treaty of Stockholm with Sweden, which agrees to supply army in return for British subsidies and promises not to oppose union with Norway.

1861 — Emancipation of Russian Serfs is proclaimed.

1896 — Peace of Bucharest between Serbia and Bulgaria is signed.

1924 — Germany signs treaty of friendship with Turkey.

1932 — Chinese forces are driven back from Shanghai by Japanese.

1944 — U.S. fighter planes make first appearance over Berlin in World War II.

1955 — Greece, Yugoslavia and Turkey establish representative parliamentary council.

1963 — U.S. government announces that its project of landing men on the moon will be followed by a large manned laboratory orbiting the Earth.

1974 — Turkish airliner crashes in forest near Paris, killing 345 people.

1976 — U.S. administration of President Gerald Ford discloses that it has decided to sell weapons to Egypt.

1986 — Protestant militants go on car-burning rampage in central Belfast, Northern Ireland, in protest against Anglo-Irish accord.

1988 — Political clashes leave 11 people dead and more than 300 injured in Bangladesh as accusations of vote fraud mar parliamentary elections.

1989 — West German officials warn of dangerous new dimension in international espionage following exposure of West German spy ring.

1990 — President George Bush announces opposition to new Jewish settlements on West Bank or in East Jerusalem.

By The Associated Press

Weekend Crossword

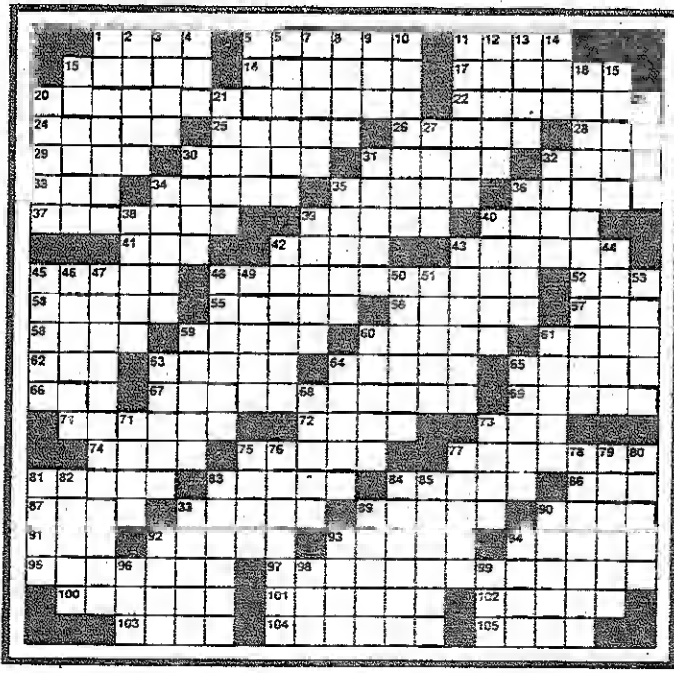
HOUSE OF CARDS
By Norma Steinberg

- ACROSS
- One of the Three Bears
 - Kidney-shaped nut
 - Draw a — on
 - Estuaries house
 - Baseball player
 - Nudges
 - Roger Miller hit
 - Guftawed
 - Fury
 - Whetted
 - Proclamation
 - Concili
 - Papal notice
 - Bulbs
 - Curved inward
 - Limerick man
 - Indian
 - Lures

- DOWN
- Twist up
 - Guardian —
 - Ochello for one
 - Dog's world
 - Sideline
 - Play grounds
 - Royal title
 - Thug
 - Guido's note
 - Commutal state
 - Picture falsely
 - Air, antelope
 - Snug as — in
 - A rug
 - Phal or corral
 - Tiny
 - Conduct business
 - In a way
 - "Where's
 - "Poppy" star
 - Albanian city
 - Massenet opera

Diagramless 19 X 19, By Martha J. De Witt

- ACROSS
- Hemlock
 - Put on cargo
 - Church part
 - Age
 - Censure
 - Group of five
 - Pays by mail
 - Gash
 - Mythological monster
 - Draws off
 - Arch
 - Castle protector
 - Sully
 - Perfect
 - Tassels
 - Shorten
 - Entreaty
 - Loch —
 - Give off
 - Bride part
 - And others: abbr.
 - Interior racehorse
 - Leisure part
 - Game

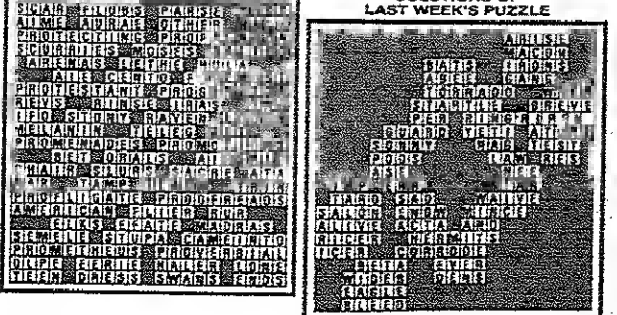


Last Week's Cryptograms

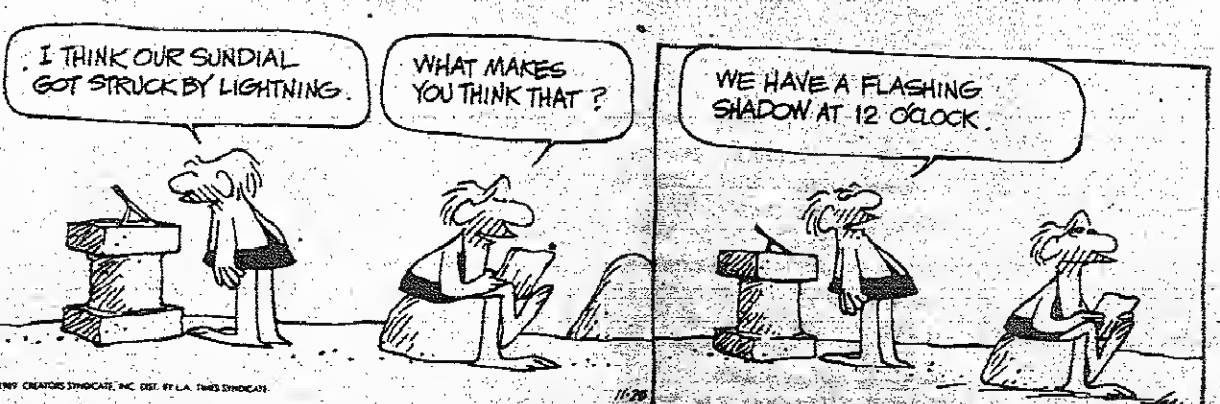
- Dour cucumber farmer attended all events at first convention in farm belt.
- Sassy gleam in his fiancée's eyes foretold of many sons and daughters.
- Host scrubs ashtrays left full of cigarette butts by his guests.
- Clone rivals shout to each other, "How much we have in common!"

CRYPTOGRAMS

- EBR BORTY HUIQCROT XOUT FOY
VDOUT YXEQRDR FCDV YEPD HQL FEGIC
YXQBDR CDU IUGD OLD. —By Lois H. Jones
- PNEXWDPVNVXCH. SLPI XVOSZ. LVFVOE.
ADEFSZ LEQ XWZDEB QLE ILX LASXNOS
QSCDBIFX. —By Gordon Miller
- SKINHBINB QUIKUD BUMP HELP WRU
LPUM ICUIQ WZ ZWED WNWWRUPL
SUNIELU WZ CWELU WQQL. —By Ed Huddleston
- YAHLY URE WINTERTO UTSS-ESSY RT
WTQP CHOOSE ICS INAA WTQPLT. —By Barbara J. Rugg



B.C.



سنة ١٤١١

Royal Shakespeare Company ready for busy '91 season

By Matt Wolf

The Associated Press
LONDON — Britain's Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) will reopen in London in March for a busy 1991 season, following a year marked by mixed reviews, changes in leadership and financial problems that forced a temporary closing.

The Barbican Theatre will reopen on March 21 with Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*, directed by Terry Hands.

Since November, the company has received a 30-per-

cent increase in its government subsidy, rising to the equivalent of £7.58 million. However, £1.32 million (\$2.6 million) of that grant from the Arts Council comes from its enhancement fund, which requires the company to secure a matching contribution from other sources.

The hope is that the City of London Corporation, which owns the Barbican Centre, will provide the matching funds. The authority is expected to announce a decision by March 31.

Artistic Director-Elect

Adrian Noble was confident about the company's success, and said it was entering a "golden age" in which "all winds are blowing in our direction."

On March 1, Noble formally succeeds Terry Hands as artistic director. Noble said he sought to "reaffirm the position of the RSC as the greatest classical company in the world... That's the aim, that's the policy — to be popular, and challenging as well."

Love's Labour's Lost will be the first show in the com-

pany's main London auditorium since Nov. 3, when the company ceased production in London for 1-2 months to save £1.25 million (\$2.47 million).

Last year's London season received mixed reviews at best, with new plays including *Moscow Gold* and *A Dream of People* receiving especially harsh criticism.

The company continued uninterrupted in Stratford-Upon-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace, where the season ended as scheduled on Jan. 26.

Noble announced 21 productions for 1991 — 11 in Stratford and 10 in London. Seven other productions will open late in the London season, and have yet to be announced.

The Stratford season opens on April 16 with Noble's own production of Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part I* to be joined on May 30 in repertory by *Henry IV, Part II*. Veteran actor Robert Stephens makes his company debut playing the portly Falstaff.

The Stratford season continues on the main stage with

Twelfth Night, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Julius Caesar*, starring Stephens as Caesar.

The mid-sized Swan Theatre there starts the season with Thomas Shadwell's rarely performed *The Virtuoso*, written in 1676 and directed by Phyllida Lloyd.

Other plays to follow are John Ford's 1633 *Tis A Pity She's A Whore*; Ben Jonson's *The Alchemist*; Shakespeare's *Two Gentlemen of Verona*; and Noble's own production of Sophocles' *The Theban Plays* in a new translation by playwright

Timberlake Wertenbaker. Stratford's small studio theatre, *The Other Place*, will reopen after being closed for a year with three productions, two of which have yet to be named. The third is Thomas Heywood's *Woman Killed With Kindness*.

Moving to London are acclaimed Stratford stagings of *Much Ado About Nothing*, *King Lear*, *Troilus and Cressida* and Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*, among others.

Noble has done away with the company's associated

directors, preferring to hire directors on a free-lance basis. This year's emphasis is on such upcoming young directors as Steven Pimlott, David Leveaux, and Sam Mendes. Although Trevor Nunn, of Nicholas Nickleby fame, will stage two of the plays in *The Other Place*.

The Royal Shakespeare Company originated the international hit musical *Les Miserables*. In 1984, the company toured to Broadway with two productions: *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Cyrano De Bergerac*.

Actor represents new breed of Soviet filmmakers

By Bob Thomas

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Pavel Lounguine, who won the 1990 Cannes Film Festival prize for his direction of *Taxi Blues*, personifies the new liberties accorded Soviet filmmakers under perestroika.

Five years ago, *Taxi Blues* would have been impossible to film in the Soviet Union. It is a grim view of Moscow night life, focusing on a taxi driver who sells black market booze and an alcoholic jazz musician whom he befriends and bedevils. Moscow is portrayed as an urban wasteland, rife with crime and licentiousness.

Lounguine, here for the American openings of *Taxi Blues*, resembles a Russian version of Santa Claus with his rosy cheeks, shaggy beard and twinkling eyes. He spoke about his life and work in the incongruous surroundings of the pool area of a westside hotel. An interpreter sat by his side, but during an interview Lounguine understood all the questions and answered in English.

The 41-year-old Lounguine had long worked in the Soviet cinema, but never as a maker of feature films.

"I was always in marginal jobs," he said. "I worked on children's films and our Westerns, which we call 'Estimons.' My problem was that I had to hide my personality. I wouldn't have been able to express myself in an atmosphere of censorship."

He admits a feeling of "strange emptiness" when censorship of films was lifted. He wrote *Taxi Blues* based on his own experiences and his observations of Moscow at night. The script reached French producer Marin Karmitz, who agreed to finance the production.

Casting the role of Lyosha presented a problem.

"At first I thought of some-

one like Dustin Hoffman or Al Pacino, someone nice, much more sweet," said Lounguine. "But the actors in Russian films don't really interest me. So I had to find someone who was really an artist."

"Pyotr Mamonov was a mythological personality in Moscow. He's a rock star, one of our oldest rockers, he is very well known for his self-destruction and his alcoholism. It's more easy to kill him than to change him. He is absolutely immune for all kinds of ideology."

Lounguine also chose an outsider for the role of Chikov, the taxi driver. He was Pyotr Zaitchenko. "He is an actor by profession," said the director. "He worked in the provinces as a poetry reader. He didn't even have a telephone. We had to send him a telegram. I think that he is also wonderful. This film has changed his life. He is famous now, and he has many propositions."

Will Lounguine continue to work in the Soviet Union?

"You know, I think I have to," he replied. "I have so many things to say, and our life is so strange, so understandable that you don't understand it until you make a film or a novel about it. I think it is my duty. I don't like big words, like 'art' or 'artist.' But I want to continue this mythology of the period of perestroika, about the relationship of liberty and Russia."

Does he worry about the apparent turn to the right in greater control of expression and in suppression in the Baltic states?

"It is difficult to discuss, sitting here beside the swimming pool in one of the most luxurious hotels in Los Angeles," he replied. "I'm too much involved, myself and my family. We have to wait just to understand it — if it was a false step, or some new politics."

Wagner 'ignites' Welsh soprano

By Graham Heathcote

The Associated Press

LONDON — Dame Gwyneth Jones is so excited at the end of a Wagner opera that she's ready to sign another, even after six hours of Goetterdaemmerung.

"The adrenalin is flowing. Wagner kind of ignites me and I could start all over again," the Welsh soprano said recently after singing the role of Brunnhilde in the Royal Opera House production.

"I must have sung Brunnhilde about 150 times and this is my 47th Goetterdaemmerung with about a dozen producers," Dame Gwyneth said, consulting her performance book.

The new Goetterdaemmerung (*Twilight of the Gods*) at Covent Garden completes a cycle started two years ago of the four operas in *The Ring of the Nibelung*, the most strenuous and demanding work in the repertoire.

Dame Gwyneth, 54, made her debut in 1962 in Zurich, and first sang Brunnhilde the following year.

Tall, with a strong voice

and long, blond hair, she took the role at Wagner's Festival Theatre Shrine in Bayreuth in 1976 during the theatre's centennial, a controversial modern-dress production by French director Patrice Chereau.

"If the sound produced by Gwyneth Jones at this stage in her career is not to everyone's liking, her Brunnhilde still has the more valuable asset of an unquenchable generosity of spirit," wrote Robert Henderson in London's *Daily Telegraph* in her latest notices.

"There are no half measures in her performance, the great soaring phrases delivered with tireless eloquence," he said.

Robert Maycock in *The Independent* spoke of her "long-drawn lines and thrilling climaxes for the final scene."

"Impassioned and riveting, even with a pronounced beat in her soprano," said David Murray in the *Financial Times*.

Edward Greenfield in *The Guardian* wrote that Dame Gwyneth had seen better day in the role but she had never

been more powerful.

Like Chereau, Goetz Friedrich, the German director of the Royal Opera production, also puts it in modern dress, with the Valkyries in fetching black leather with frills.

To Dame Gwyneth the costumes are no bother. "It's the text that's important," she said.

She is tough with directors in her insistence on faithfulness to what the composers wrote.

"I'm always adamant on truth to the work. If a director wants you to sing one thing and do another, then it must be sorted out in the rehearsal," she said. "Most good directors are willing to cooperate. They all want the best for the piece and to bring out the best from the artists."

Friedrich's Ring is set in a tunnel, a "time tunnel," symbolising his belief that the story of betrayal, love and death among dwarfs, giants and gods is timeless and for all time.

Dame Gwyneth said she was quite comfortable with the unfamiliar staging and while the claustrophobic-looking set might seem complicated there

was nothing for her to fall over — "unlike some operas I have been in," she said.

The demands of singing, she said, compel her to "get as much sleep as I can, stay quietly at home (in Switzerland) a lot of the time and go through the text again and again. You can't go shopping."

"It cuts out a lot of fun but that is the job."

Her husband, Swiss industrialist Till Haberfeld, was with her, but only just. He said it was the first time he had not been able to see an entire first-night performance by his wife.

"When the opera began I was in Zurich," he said.

"I was voted on to the board of the Zurich Opera House today and they said, 'no excuses. If you want to be on the board you must be at Monday's meeting.' I knew the timing exactly. The meeting began when Gwyneth began singing. I left when the meeting ended, flew here and arrived for the funeral scene," at the end of the last act.

Their 17-year-old daughter, Susanne, stayed in Zurich, baby-sitting for friends, he said.

McPartland keeps unique jazz radio programme alive

By Arthur Spiegelman

Reuter

NEW YORK — For 11 years, pianist Marian McPartland had kept an American tradition alive on American radio. Even when one of her guests was too drunk to talk, the show went on.

The tradition is piano jazz. Week in, week out, radio listeners across the country tune into Marian McPartland's piano jazz and hear her discuss music with a prominent jazz pianist after which they play together on two grand pianos.

Once, American airwaves were filled with jazz programmes, but British-born McPartland's show on

National Public Radio is believed to be the last nationally syndicated jazz broadcast.

"To celebrate our going into our 11th year, we are going international," said McPartland before a recent show. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) will air 10 shows in 1991.

As befits a lady from England, the 70-year-old McPartland sipped a cup of tea before taping a recent show with pianist Dick Hyman.

She slipped off her shoes and when Hyman appeared they sat down at side-by-side grand pianos and played half a dozen tunes together, with McPartland declaring: "That was wonderful!"

The more than 200 guests on McPartland's shows form

a who's who of jazz — from the late Bill Evans to Billy Taylor, Dave Brubeck, George Shearing and Ray Charles.

Ellis Larkins, a former accompanist of Ella Fitzgerald, only did the programme on the understanding he could stop every 20 minutes for a drink and a cigarette.

There was one famous pianist who arrived too drunk to talk coherently. McPartland said she realised something was wrong when he started talking about fish and chip shops and insisted on calling Cole Porter "Cole Port-hole."

So she put aside the neatly written series of questions she prepares for each show and just started playing — for

a solid hour. Herguest played along, and some fans said later it was their favourite show. Drunk or sober, the guest was a master pianist.

Almost everyone who appears on McPartland's show is a jazz pianist — but she has also hosted singers Mel Tormé and Tony Bennett, who recorded her song *Twilight World*, as well as saxophonist Branford Marsalis and classical pianist Van Cliburn.

She also had Dizzy Gillespie on the programme, playing piano instead of his customary trumpet. "He's an interesting pianist — he plays very intensely and he told me that I played stiff. I told him, 'you are making me nervous,'" she recalled.

Isolation keeps musician buoyant

By John Pacenti

The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona — Solo pianist Liz Story not only doesn't mind living half an hour from her urban neighbours, she insists on it.

"One of the most important things is that I don't have a phone," she says. "The absence of a phone is a magic formula to achieve some newer sense of sanity."

Story secluded herself in her rural home near Prescott, Arizona, without telephone or television to minimise outside disturbance while creating her most recent work.

The result is *Escape Of The Circus Ponies*, a work often as mysterious and ethereal as sounds of the Pinon pines and alligator jumper that surround her residence.

"This is the first time I've had the experience of being so isolated and writing," the 33-year-old musician said. "Apparently, it helps me to be a little more buoyant."

That album, her fifth, was released shortly before the start of her "Winter Solstice Tour," which also features Irish-American Quartet Nightnoise and fellow pianist Philip Aaberg.

Story's music is as hard to define as the self-made philosophy she espouses. Critics have compared her work to a variety of artists, from Keith Jarrett to Joni Mitchell.

Her music is reminiscent of classical jazz but with a character of folk music, one that echoes the southwest with its Spanish flavourings. It effortlessly conjures up imagery, endlessly converting emotional landscapes into music.

In her dome-shaped house nestled on a forested mountain, Story surrounds herself with books and works of art, saying much of her inspiration is from sources other than music.

"I am influenced more by visual arts, painting and poetry," she said, "such as the sense of cadence or phrasing that exists in a poem. I read a lot of poetry out loud, even if I am by myself."

Whatever her muse, she creates music that crosses jazz, new age and pop lines. She refuses to categorise her work, however, and stresses she is a solo pianist foremost.

"I think that says a lot. It tells you there is an individual voice there," Story said.

That voice might never have been heard. Story abandoned the piano as an adolescent. She had been thinking of becoming a music librarian when, at age 20, she attended a Bill Evans concert in New York City.

Story was mesmerised by Evans' mastery of improvisation, and after the concert asked him to be her tutor. Evans instead referred her to a colleague, and the next day she quit school at Hunter College.

But her rise as a solo pianist was disillusioning at first. "I got into jazz harmony," she said. "But I was overwhelmed with the sheer mass of scales and chords and I believed false ideas that once I learned these scales I would be ready to perform."

That myth was shattered when Story moved from New York to Los Angeles and eventually took a job playing piano at a French restaurant. It was there she was forced to learn to compose.

"There was no place to put my music on the piano. The front casing was missing," she said. "I had to start improvising — writing music — on the spot. Talk about fear."

Soon Story was developing her style, and a friend suggested she send a tape to Windham Hill Records. The tape eventually became her first recording, *Solid Colors*.

"I was shocked," Story said of landing that recording contract. "I expected just to get a letter of recognition."

She has done five albums and has three Grammy nominations.

Escape Of The Circus Ponies is the first work in which Story actually wrote down the music she was composing. Surprisingly, she said, fans compare it to these original compositions done at the French restaurant.

Africans, European collectors loot continent of antiquities

By Michelle Faul

The Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria — Africans dig into villages to hack bronze plaques from doors and steal statues from shrines, replacing their collectors as looters of the continent's antiquities.

They sell the plunder to collectors abroad.

"Next to drugs, trading in cultural property — in our heritage — is the highest item on the list of illegal trafficking, and Nigeria is the biggest victim in Africa," said Ade Obayemi, director of museums and monuments in this West African nation.

Ransacking of towns and villages began in the 19th century and Europeans shipped home tonnes of booty. Among items that grace European museums are masks, bronze, stone and iv-

ory statues, terra cotta figurines and pottery dating to sophisticated civilisation of the 3rd century B.C.

Critics have come to regard some African art as among the world's finest, which opens the way for speculation and more plundering.

Nigerian terra cotta from the 11th century, which reached the market less than 20 years ago, have been compared with Mesopotamian figures and those from the PRE-Columbian cultures of Mexico and Peru.

Rich collectors who keep their acquisitions secret are the illicit trade's beneficiaries.

Their work is done by "well-funded clandestine cartels stretching from African go-betweens who employ gangs of thieves, to security forces who close one eye or both for a price," Obayemi

said in an interview.

"Other African countries are used as transit points, but the eventual market is the United States, Britain, Japan and European countries like Germany and France."

A sign at Lagos International Airport declares "the law prohibits the export of antiquities," but some corrupt officials there will turn a blind eye for the price of a beer.

UNESCO has a convention against the traffic and mediates negotiations between countries. Under its aegis, Belgium returned thousands of objects taken from Zaire, its former colony.

The United States is a signatory to the convention, but Africa's main colonisers, Britain and France, are not.

"Many former colonial powers say they are ready to

return such objects, but only if the countries they are returned to provide the necessary security and conservation techniques," said Abdul Kader Errahmani, chief of UNESCO's cultural heritage programme.

He spoke by telephone from the Paris headquarters of UNESCO, the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

Obayemi said some Nigerian villagers have been harassed or induced into selling carved wooden doors that tourists literally take off their huts.

"People are poor and getting poorer, and they are offered hard currency," he said. "It's tempting."

Looting has hampered research. As Obayemi put it: "We are reluctant to publish findings because it is like soliciting for these

multimillion-dollar cartels to come and pilfer and loot."

"Every day, some village head or community leader is contacting us to report the theft of their antiquities," he said. Some communities have adopted the drastic remedy of sticking their precious belongings together in mounds of concrete.

Efforts to stop the thefts are constrained by lack of money and manpower, Obayemi said, partly because "few black African countries take their cultural heritage seriously."

It is as tragedy in West Africa that reflects badly on our governments," Constance Lowenthal, executive director of the International Foundation for Art Research in New York, said its listings of stolen art objects included "very, very few reports from Africa."

She said the foundation

was trying to stop art thefts by making the market difficult, but "as with drugs, it's hard to keep the collectors from wanting it, and as long as there is a little pot of gold... a whole chain will be activated."

In a modest operation, Obayemi and his staff photograph scenes of crimes and artifacts similar to stolen goods, document their descriptions and origins, and inform governments and museums abroad.

By that method, they recently recovered a spectacular bronze bust, one of several pieces stolen four years ago from the museum in Jos, central Nigeria.

It was offered for sale in November by an obscure auction house in Switzerland. Swiss collectors Peter Schnell and his wife became suspicious and telephoned John

Pemberton III, an American anthropologist at Amherst College in Massachusetts, to ask whether Nigeria was selling its antiquities.

They thought the statue must be fake, but Pemberton asked the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and Lowenthal's foundation, which said it was listed as stolen.

"The statue is priceless," Pemberton said. "It is an exquisite work of art and a national treasure."

Obayemi sent an assistant to identify the bust, which dates to the Bini Empire that ruled part of Nigeria from about the 15th century. Long court proceedings were avoided when the man offering it for sale admitted falsifying the origins.

"We think he was tricked," he said. Obayemi refused to identify the man, who he said

was helping with an investigation that might lead to other stolen pieces. Sources in international art circles said he was an expert on African antiquities.

Obayemi was reluctant to discuss the money value of the recovered figure, now locked up in Lagos. Similar pieces have been sold by the auction houses Christie's and Sotheby's for up to \$1 million.

"Placing monetary values on these things is outrageous," Obayemi said. "They are not objects of art. For us, they have spiritual and religious dimensions. They are our cultural heritage."

"In part, I blame the corrupt influences of Western culture that is making people think of their cultural property in terms of dollars, pounds, francs and yen."

Vitamins lower risk of cataracts in older people

By Daniel Q. Haney
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Older people who consume plenty of vitamins by eating well or taking daily supplements greatly decrease their risk of cataracts, the leading cause of blindness, researchers say.

A study found that those who regularly use multivitamin supplement were 37 per cent less likely to have cataracts. Experts suspect the key nutrients are anti-oxidants, substances such as certain vitamins that counteract damaging effects of oxygen on the eyes.

About 50 million people around the world are blind because of cataracts. Surgery is the only treatment, and in the United States alone doctors perform more than 540,000 of these operations each year at a cost of \$3.8 billion.

Cataracts are cloudy areas on the lens that block light entering the eye.

The study's authors said they were unwilling to recommend that people take vitamins or alter their eating habits until more research is done.

The researchers found reduced risk of cataracts among people who consumed relatively large amounts of A, C, E and B vitamins, either by taking pills or by eating plenty of fruits, vegetables and other nutritious foods.

"We know that taking vitamin supplements decreases that risk," said Dr. Leo T. Chylack, a co-author of the study at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

"We really can't make the jump between these findings

and public health recommendations," he said. "The risk of taking vitamin supplements is low. Is there any harm? Probably not. But we can't say there is any real benefit yet."

The study, published in the February issue of the Archives of Ophthalmology, was based on 1,380 people ages 40 to 79 treated at the Boston hospitals.

Biochemist Dr. Allen Taylor, a leading researcher in the study of cataracts, said the study's "public health ramifications are considerable."

Experts believe that just as oxygen rusts iron, it also can damage cell membranes and other proteins in the eye's lens. The vitamins are thought to prevent this destruction by converting oxygen compounds to less harmful forms.

Taylor said that while no one knows precisely how much of each nutrient is necessary to preserve vision, "a one-a-day vitamin is not a bad idea," along with following the prudent diet endorsed by most major health organizations.

He also said people will probably need to start while young to prevent a long accumulation of eye damage.

The researchers hope to determine a stronger link between vitamins and lower cataract rates with a study in Boston and the English cities of Oxford and Bradford. In the study, 280 people with early cataracts will take daily vitamins or placebos to see if the treatment slows or stops their disease.

Study finds sugar eases newborns' response to pain

By Lindsey Tanner
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A study that found sugar can ease newborns' reactions to pain is the first to establish a strong link between taste and the way humans respond to the sensation of pain, researchers have said.

The 1989 study of 54 newborns examined pain responses to two common procedures in newborn infants — circumcision and drawing blood by lancing the heel.

Infants cried significantly less during the procedures when given sucrose — ordinary cane or beet sugar — than when given a placebo, according to researchers led by Elliott M. Blass, then a psychologist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Their findings were reported in the February issue of Pediatrics, the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, based in the Chicago suburb of Elk Grove Village.

Among the 30 infants who were circumcised, some were given a pacifier dipped in a sugar solution during the procedure. Some received a water-moistened pacifier, and some received nothing.

Those who were given sugar pacifiers cried 31 per cent of the time during the procedure, compared with 49 per cent for the water-pacifier group and 67 per cent for the infants who received nothing, the study found.

Of the 34 infants from whom blood was drawn, some received an oral dose of sugar equal to about a teaspoon before the procedure, while a control group was given water.

Those who received sugar cried 50 per cent less during the procedure than those who received water, the researchers found.

"These findings... provide a potent yet simple, benign intervention to help alleviate stress and pain routinely experienced by human infants," the researchers wrote.

But Blass declined to comment on possible practical use of the findings. He said his study was not done to identify painkillers for infants but to explore how taste affects the body's response to pain.

Not all sugars produce the same effect, and Blass cautioned that giving sucrose to some infants — like diabetics — is not advised.

According to Blass, the study's most significant finding "is that taste is having such a powerful effect on response to painful stimuli."

The findings are the first to show such a strong link, said Blass, now a professor of psychology and nutrition at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

The study does not conclude that sugar actually reduces pain, but it suggests that it may trigger the release of natural painkillers in the body called endogenous opiates.

Blass discovered the taste-pain relationship in sugar tests on rats, and his new discovery is a milestone in treating humans, said Dr. Linda Bartoshuk, a Yale University taste expert.

"The data appears to show that sucrose has an effect on behaviour," said Dr. Gerald Merenstein, chairman of the Pediatrics Academy's Committee on Fetus and Newborn.

Caribbean grapples with AIDS epidemic

By Robert Glass
The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — From offices in the health Ministry's draft seafront headquarters, opposite a cluster of hovels built by squatters on an old dump site, Dr. Jean Pape wages war on AIDS.

The Cornell University scientist runs the oldest centre for AIDS testing, treatment and research in Haiti, one of the world's poorest nations and a focus of the worldwide AIDS epidemic from the start.

AIDS strains the fragile economies of virtually all nations and territories in the Caribbean. Nowhere is the effect more severe than in Haiti, whose nearly bankrupt government budgets only \$1.50 a year per person for health care.

"It's probably the major killer of adults in urban areas," said Pape, a Haitian who returned to his homeland 10 years ago to head the Infectious Diseases Unit for Cornell. "It's affecting our labour force because the people who are dying in the prime of activity."

As in the United States, AIDS emerged in Haiti a decade ago among homosexual years, the deadly disease has shifted course sharply in Haiti and now strikes nearly as many women as men.

Researchers say that in much of the Caribbean, for reasons not fully understood, heterosexual contact has become the main way AIDS is transmitted.

As recently as 1985, only 13 per cent of AIDS cases reported by 19 Caribbean countries were due to heterosexual contact, according to a study published

last year in the medical journal AIDS.

By 1989, the proportion due to heterosexual contact had increased to 65 per cent, the study found.

In the United States, the proportion remains a relatively low 6 per cent. In Puerto Rico, Bermuda, 60 per cent of AIDS cases reported are attributed to intravenous drug use.

The overall trend in the Caribbean is similar to that in Central Africa, where prostitution, promiscuity and venereal disease are blamed for spreading AIDS among women and men with equal frequency.

More and more women in the Caribbean are transmitting AIDS to their sexual partners and to infants during pregnancy. Haiti, the Bahamas, Trinidad and Jamaica have reported significant increases in AIDS among infants and children in recent years.

"The AIDS epidemic is not contained; it's just started," said Dr. Tissa Wickramasariya of the University of the West Indies at Barbados. "What is happening now is the spread (of AIDS by) heterosexual contact, and it is spreading like any other sexually transmitted disease."

"It seems to be spreading fast, and it's taking its toll on health budgets," he said.

Haiti has reported 2,436 cases of AIDS, but the actual number is thought to be much higher. Among the 1 million people of Port-Au-Prince, the capital, the infection rate is estimated at 7 to

8 per cent.

Pape said infection rates have been leveling off and AIDS has largely been confined to Port-Au-Prince and other cities, but that could change with the rapid spread of the virus to women and children.

"In rural areas, it is not a major disease, but unless we do something very quickly, I would say that within 10 years we will have the same rate" as in urban areas, Pape said.

Four days a week, Tuesday through Friday, sick and worried visit Pape's cramped, 11-office clinic, which faces the seafont on a dusty, unpaved street.

The clinic sees 70 patients a day on average, a total of 4,000 since 1982. Its patients include people with full-blown AIDS, those diagnosed as HIV-positive — carriers of the AIDS virus — and those who have come for blood tests.

Pape and his team treat AIDS complications such as tuberculosis and chronic diarrhea, and counsel carriers of the virus about ways to avoid infecting their sexual partners. Little else can be done.

In a country with 6 million people and a per capita annual income of only \$300, no more than one in 100 AIDS patients can afford the life-prolonging drug AZT, Pape said.

Haiti reported the Caribbean's first case of AIDS in 1979. Pape said male homosexuality from the United States probably introduced the disease to the region.

Why AIDS has evolved differently in the Caribbean than in the United States and other developed countries remains unclear, but scientists cite many of the same reasons given for the African phenomenon.

Theories include a tendency in the Caribbean for men to have multiple sexual partners and visit prostitutes frequently, "sexual tourism" with foreigners of both sexes and a high prevalence of venereal diseases, which facilitates AIDS infection.

"The society is generally very sexually active," Wickramasariya said. "Multiplicity (of partners) seems to be the norm. So in a situation where there is a fair degree of promiscuity, it can be spread very fast."

Most Caribbean governments have undertaken anti-AIDS campaigns and screen donated blood to prevent infection from transfusions.

The region's most intensive, and controversial, AIDS programme is in Cuba, where the government has introduced mass blood-screening and confines carriers of the virus to a medical quarantine centre.

By January 1990, the Health Ministry is said to have tested 6.4 million people and quarantined 309.

Social worker Roslyn Walcott of Queens Park Counseling Centre in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, said it is not easy to get the AIDS message across, especially to "teenagers, who are extremely promiscuous."

"After the initial year or two of fearing ... AIDS, the risk factor no longer acts as a barrier to indiscriminate behaviour," she said.

India pledges to eradicate leprosy

By Ajay Singh
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — The government has pledged to wipe out leprosy in this decade, but it is far too late for Laxman, a 70-year-old with no fingers or toes who begs outside a hospital.

Laxman contracted the disease 35 years ago in his remote home village in northern India, where he was a farm labourer. It began with white blotches on his hands and feet, which gradually became large wounds.

It was kilometres to the nearest hospital that supplied Dapsone, the only anti-leprosy drug then available.

"I was too poor to afford a pair of shoes," Laxman said, "so I walked barefoot to the hospital." He said the rough roads grazed his ulcerated feet but he felt no pain because the disease had deadened the nerves.

Doctors told Laxman he would have to take Dapsone all his life to keep the disease at bay, but the hospital didn't have a regular supply of the drug and "there were times when I was sick and couldn't make it."

Laxman is free of leprosy now, but cannot work, and for 20 years has survived as a beggar outside the hospital.

He is one of an estimated 4 million lepers in India, which has more than any other country — about one-third of the world's cases.

Pursuing its pledge to eradicate the disease by the end of the century, the government began the annual anti-leprosy week in January by launching public-awareness programmes and opening several new treatment centres.

India spends \$17.8 million a year to combat leprosy, which cripples, disfigures and paralyses but rarely kills, and can be cured if detected early.

It is caused by the mycobacterium leprae bacillus, which first afflicts the skin and then invades the peripheral nerves, paralysing the muscles and tendons.

Doctors say few victims know leprosy is curable and many lepers, fearing social ostracism, hide the early symptoms and avoid medication.

The government did not

make concerted efforts to control the disease until 1982, when it provided multidrug therapy in two of the 200 districts where leprosy was endemic.

Only four more districts had been added by 1985, but the treatment reached 137 in 1990. The government hopes to have multidrug therapy in all endemic districts by the end of this year, said B.N. Mittal, a health Department official who coordinates federal anti-leprosy programmes.

Mittal said that still would leave 500,000 to 600,000 untreated lepers, about 15 per cent of all cases. Theoretically, he said, they would not spread the infection and it eventually would disappear unless there were new outbreaks.

Leprosy is believed to be communicable only through long and close contact, eventually, but poor, undernourished people can harbour and spread it for many years without visible signs. A complete cure requires multidrug treatment for at least two to three years.

Even after they are cured, lepers are shunned by society and denied jobs.

Many Indians believe leprosy is a curse of the gods. Seven of the 25 states still enforce a 1988 law that bars lepers from government jobs, the use of public transport and inheriting property.

"Our weakest link is lack of rehabilitation," Mittal said of the lepers. "It's unfortunate that we can kill the bacilli, but can't restore their dignity."

"Nearly all the government's anti-leprosy budget goes for treatment and little provision is made for rehabilitation, he said.

Charities and Christian missions have opened leper homes but there is little help in remote and underdeveloped regions.

Many cured lepers, like Laxman, exist as beggars, living in shanties or overcrowded leper colonies.

Dr. Stephen Atwood, an American who has coordinated several health projects in India, said: "We're looking at whole people here, not just diseases. I don't think you can handle medical care without social rehabilitation."

Freud's ideas called 'outmoded'

By Paul Recker

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Sigmund Freud, father of psychoanalysis, made exaggerated claims of cures, drew conclusions with little evidence and generally ignored basic principles of scientific research, a new study by experts say.

The experts reached their conclusions after re-examining the fundamental theories and work of Freud and now believe the Austrian physician may have been more slick salesman than scientist.

Their studies were prepared for presentation Monday at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington.

"The kind of evidence we have now is extremely critical of Freud," said Frank J. Sulloway, a professor of science history at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

One of Freud's major works is an accounting of how he treated six patients. The work, said Sulloway, is considered a pillar of the whole concept of psychoanalysis, the so-called "talking cure" for the men-

tally ill or anxious.

Yet, of the six case histories, said Sulloway, recent research has shown "one involved a patient who fled therapy in disgust, two actually were not treated by Freud, and another involved no real therapy."

Freud claimed to have cured two of the patients, yet when one was interviewed at length in later years the cure was found to be "a complete misrepresentation of the facts," said Sulloway.

The case histories, he said, "are rampant with censorship, distortions, highly dubious reconstructions and exaggerated clinical claims."

Freud lived from 1856 to 1939, and after his death some of his patients were interviewed. From this and other research, flaws and faults in Freud's work became known.

Much of Freud's theories, said Sulloway, are based on "outmoded assumptions from the 19th century." Studies by a number of experts have shown that "Freud's logical inferences and conclusions about his research and empirical evidence are simply not justified," he said.

Sulloway said Freud failed to follow basic science principles of openness that permits other scientists to evaluate research and results. Instead, like a high priest, his treatment and training methods were "a backward step... based on authority and secrecy that was typical of alchemy (a medieval science)."

Of Freudian psychoanalysis Sulloway said: "It's not a science. It's like a religion."

Morris Eagle, a psychologist at York University near Toronto, said that the whole idea of psychoanalysis has never been subjected to the rigorous evaluation of controlled studies that are the routine scientific method in other areas of medicine and of science in general.

In accepted medical practice, a method of treatment is tested vigorously against other methods before it is generally accepted as an appropriate way to treat patients. It, in effect, has to prove to promote cures or relieve symptoms.

Yet, said Eagle, this has never been done for psychoanalysis.

Millions of people spend years visiting psychotherap-

ists who try to relieve mental illness or anxiety by probing the patient's psyche through talk and discussion.

Eagle said there are growing doubts among health professions about the value of psychoanalysis and that unless the technique is proven to be of true value, Freud's whole "talking cure" could be abandoned eventually.

Dr. Madri J. Horowitz, a University of California, San Francisco psychoanalyst, said those in his profession are trained in a variety of means of treating patients and that no single form of psychoanalysis, including Freudian, is universally accepted.

Adolf Grunbaum, a philosophy of science scholar at the University of Pittsburgh, said that even the famous "Freudian slip" may not be real.

Grunbaum said that Freud actually never proved in his research that the inadvertent verbal slip is really betraying a deeper, suppressed psychological meaning.

"Nobody knows if there are really Freudian slips," said Grunbaum. "That's a very open question."

German ban on embryo research 'wrong'

By Rolf H. Lattuseck

Surgeons taking brain tissue from an aborted human embryo and transplanting it into the body of a sick patient is an idea that conjures visions of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, but initial experiments along these lines have been carried out in the United States, Mexico and Sweden.

Swedish research scientists were recently honoured at a Max Planck research institute for their transplant experiments on patients suffering from Parkinson's Disease, but it is most unlikely that they would have been allowed to conduct experiments of this kind in Germany.

They certainly can no longer do so now the Protection of the Embryo Act has come into force. It prohibits manipulation of any kind involving the human embryo.

Research scientists in other countries have experimented with treating patients suffering from shaking palsy, Parkinson's Disease and childhood or youth diabetes with tissue taken from the brain

and pancreas of human embryos.

But the experiments were not very successful, so scientists are more reluctant to go ahead with work on the use of tissue taken from the human foetus.

There is, however, a closely related research sector dealing with embryos in general. The borderline between them is unclear and they both raise complex issues of ethical and moral responsibility.

Doctors define an embryo all stages from insemination of the ovum to the end of the third month of pregnancy.

During this period a single cell develops into a seemingly disorderly array of cells containing the inner organs and outward appearance of a human being in the making.

From then on pregnancy is mainly a matter of growth and the germ is known as a foetus.

As scientists cannot yet keep a human embryo alive for three months in a test tube, foetus research mate-

rial consists entirely of aborted embryos.

Whether research of this kind ought to be permitted is thus still closely linked with the ban on (or permission to go ahead with) an abortion.

If a state or a society decides to permit research with and the transplantation of the by-products of legal abortions new problems promptly arise.

Might there then be new grounds for an abortion, such as the possibility of using tissue from the embryo to save a life, maybe the life of a close relative?

This question is far less theoretical than it may seem to be at first glance. Less than a year ago the tale of a "donor baby" went the rounds of U.S. newspapers.

A Californian couple had deliberately gone in for a pregnancy to use the baby as a bone marrow donor for its fatally ill 17-year-old sister.

A similar case was reported just before Christmas in Britain, where parents induced the miscarriage of a normal pregnancy to use the

bone marrow tissue to save the lives of two older children who were seriously ill. One may well wonder how far removed this true story is from the idea of widespread, organised foetus transplantation.

Transplants involve the late embryo or early foetus, whereas embryo research deals with the embryo in its first days and weeks of existence.

It first gained widespread attention in connection with test-tube babies. In the course of treatment surplus fertilised cells always occur. Might there not be a use for this test-tube material?

These zygotes, as the developing individual produced from a cell formed by the union of two gametes is known, were obvious candidates for close attention as they divided and subdivided.

They were clearly potential for experimental work for as long as they remained capable of life in a test-tube. Research into these early embryonic stages holds forth great promise.

It is the promise of an insight into both the further development of work on test-tube babies and the differentiation of cells and creation of individual organs.

Scientists are particularly interested in control mechanisms about which little is known that supervise cell division. They play a key role in, say, the creation of cancer cells.

There is a total ban on embryo research in a number of countries, including the Federal Republic of Germany. Others, such as Great Britain, permit research on embryos up to 14 days old.

There is no scientific justification for this time limit; it is strictly a matter of Weltanschauung, or point of view.

And that is why differences between what is permitted in one country and the next can have unpleasant repercussions, as Evelyn For Keller, professor of women's studies at the University of California, told a recent conference held in Berlin by Schering, the drug company.

"It is at least in theory possible that scientists might migrate to a country where embryo research permitted in order to be able to continue their research — in much the same way," she said, "as some women have to go abroad for an abortion."

In sectors of such sensitivity and social significance a total research ban on moral and ethical grounds could prove as unsatisfactory as permitting research without criticism or limits.

What might a state do if it felt embryo research was irresponsible and banned it, only to learn that a breakthrough had been achieved by research in this sector?

Embryo research could well shed light on the fundamental causes of serious physical deformity in childhood and effective ways to treat it.

Must treatment be ruled out because it is based on the findings of morally unacceptable research or do the results justify activity that in itself is reprehensible? — Die Welt.

Prince

(Continued from page 1)

peated calls for a Gulf war cease-fire.

"We believe that Iraq's acceptance of the U.N. resolutions complies with what has been demanded from Iraq in the past," Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri told Reuters.

"We believe it is high time for the Security Council to meet and to endorse an immediate cease-fire."

Iraq said Wednesday that if the U.S.-led allied forces declared a ceasefire it would accept key U.N. Security Council resolutions saying its annexation of Kuwait was null and void and that it must pay reparations.

Mr. Masri Wednesday met with Arab ambassadors to Jordan and discussed with them the latest developments in the Gulf region. He also discussed with them efforts made inside and outside the U.N. arena to reach a ceasefire.

Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin said Wednesday it is difficult to justify the continuation of hostilities after Iraq completed its withdrawal from Kuwait.

In a press briefing, he expressed his belief that Iraq was brought under unnecessary heavy pressure after Iraq's acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 660 and announcing the completion of withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

"No one can justify anything now," he said. "To think of the future, one can believe that the Arabs can live and work together," he added.

"But you do not kill people to make them accept a resolution... you should try to persuade them through diplomatic means. It is unnatural and unprecedented if we bomb cities and kill people to force them to accept Security Council resolutions."

Badran

(Continued from page 1)

session sounded as if Iraq had been defeated, adding that he himself did not see developments on the battlefield that way.

Mr. Badran assured the deputies that the Iraqi leadership knew what it was doing in withdrawing from Kuwait because it was convinced that the allies would not want to leave the Iraqi capabilities intact.

He said that those who believed that the aim of the U.S.-led alliance was just to get the Iraqi forces out of Kuwait have no right or reason to do so any longer.

"The aim was to destroy the military, economic and social capabilities of Iraq," Mr. Badran stressed.

He explained that the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces took place before the official announcement was made early Tuesday. Mr. Badran cited as examples Kuwaiti citizens interviewed as saying that they had not seen Iraqi soldiers, tanks or guns two days before they were interviewed on Tuesday.

"So the withdrawal was part of a plan because of the Iraqi knowledge and conviction that the aim was not Kuwait and that the target was Iraq," he said.

Mr. Badran criticised oil-rich Arab countries for their continued alliance against Iraq, and referred to warning by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein before Aug. 2 — during the summit of the Arab Cooperation Council in Amman and the Baghdad summit last May — "that there were

brotherly (Arab) states conspiring with Western parties against Iraq."

Mr. Badran described the Arab financing of the war in the Gulf as a "benevolence that we have never witnessed before, pouring in billions in this manner."

He told deputies to count the achievements of Iraq, mainly "holding fast for 10 days against different types of continuous bombardment minute after minute, amounting to more than 100,000 tonnes and 100,000 air sorties."

He noted that the amount of bombs that was dropped on Iraq in 40 days was equivalent to what was dropped against Germany in four years (during World War II).

By its steadfastness, Mr. Badran went on to say, Iraq has also given birth to the spirit of jihad and martyrdom and a push to the Palestinian problem which has again become the "mother of all causes," and brought out the issue between rich and poor countries. Mr. Badran predicted that there will be social, economic and political changes in some of the Arab, Muslim and Third World countries.

"When you see the people from these countries move, it is because Iraq belongs to the Third World and because it does not want one single country to hegemonise an entire region," Mr. Badran stated, adding that the new order being discussed wanted hegemony.

The prime minister assured that the objectives of the Iraqi leadership would soon bear fruit. "We spent hours talking to the Iraqi leadership about the sacrifices, the blood, the destruction, the victims, and they knew this would happen. They said they would sacrifice all this for the (Arab) Nation and to change the course of this nation's history," Mr. Badran said.

He called on Jordanians to work and think positively and with hope and to throw behind them desperation, "because to give up is death; as long as there is a pulse of life, there must be optimism."

Mr. Badran also called for each individual to work within his capabilities "to help Iraq and the steadfastness of this (Jordan) country."

Council

(Continued from page 1)

Witnesses said earlier that an Iraqi surface to air missile hit at least one allied target in the air. Others said two targets were hit. It was not known whether allied planes or cruise missiles were hit.

Fierce explosions and tracer from anti-aircraft guns lit the night sky over Baghdad, the witnesses said.

Guests at the Rashid Hotel saw a plume of black smoke rising nearby.

Earlier, the White House said that an Iraqi acceptance of some U.N. resolutions still falls "far short" of what is necessary to stop the Gulf war.

Spokesman Martin Fitzwater said President George Bush wants "the shooting to stop as soon as militarily possible" but that the new Iraqi offer "is still a conditional offer and falls far short of what is necessary."

Mr. Fitzwater said the United States had been informed of Iraqi acceptance of only three resolutions: One that demands an immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, that Iraq rescind its actions annexing Kuwait, and one that calls for reparations.

He said Iraq had also speci-

cally rejected resolutions that provide for economic sanctions, a naval blockade and a condemnation of "aggression" against embassies and diplomats in Kuwait.

"So they still have not accepted all the resolutions and terms set forth by the coalition," according to Mr. Fitzwater.

Mr. Fitzwater, asked later about Mr. Anbari's comments that his government had accepted all the resolutions, told reporters: "I would be very cautious about that... U.N. report. Ask him (the ambassador) if he's had contact directly with Iraq or where he's getting that."

Iraq's letter specifically cited its acceptance of resolutions 662, which declares the annexation of Kuwait null and void, and 674, which holds Iraq liable for "abuses" of the rights of Kuwaitis and invites nations to collect information on "atrocities and war damages."

Iraq has already declared it is obeying Resolution 660, calling for its complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

Mr. Anbari said the other nine Security Council resolutions, including one establishing an economic embargo, were passed based on Iraq's initial rejection of those three resolutions, so they should be void.

"We believe that (the embargo) should be automatically cancelled," he said. "How there should be no sanctions."

U.S. Ambassador Thomas R. Pickens said it appeared that the Iraqis are "still conditioning their acceptance on the lifting of the economic embargo," and said that is unacceptable.

Mr. Anbari replied, "they have so many walls, they have so many mountains."

Ambassador Abdulla Saleh Al Ashtal of Yemen, a Security Council member, said of what he was seeing is not the addition of more and more conditions to prolong this war. We can see that already. Every time one condition is accepted, another one comes."

Mr. Anbari said earlier, "We are ready to abide and implement all resolutions of the Security Council should the Security Council issue a ceasefire and all hostilities should be stopped."

He also said he assumed that Iraq's missile attacks on Israel and Saudi Arabia would end at that point.

Mr. Anbari said he hoped the council would meet during the day and adopt a ceasefire resolution.

Asked if Iraq's acceptance of council resolutions depended on the adoption of a ceasefire, he replied: "Yes."

When a reporter asked if the acceptance was therefore conditional, he replied: "Let's forget about 'conditional.' Unless you are alive you cannot walk, so don't tell me that it's a condition to be alive in order to walk. You cannot implement resolutions without a ceasefire."

The U.S.-led coalition and most Security Council members have demanded that Iraq accept all 12 resolutions adopted by the council. But some of the resolutions, such as those concerning diplomats in Kuwait and Iraq, are no longer relevant.

Following is the text of the letter from Mr. Aziz to Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar.

The text was broadcast by Baghdad Radio in Arabic and translated by Reuters.

"Your Excellency, I have the honour to inform you that the Iraqi government asserts once

again its acceptance of Security Council Resolution 660.

"The Iraqi armed forces have started withdrawing to positions where they were before August 1 and it is hoped that the complete withdrawal will end within the next few hours despite the continued American and allied attacks on our Iraqi armed forces while they are withdrawing."

"I would like to inform you that the Iraqi government agrees to adhere to resolutions 662 and 674 if the Security Council orders an immediate ceasefire and an end to all land, sea and air military operations."

"The basis under which the Security Council adopted Resolutions 661, 665 and 670 of 1990 are no longer valid, it is therefore considered that the rest of the resolutions are no longer in force."

"The Iraqi government asserts its complete readiness, directly after the ceasefire, to release prisoners of war and return them to their countries in a very short time in accordance with the Geneva Convention and under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross."

"I request you to relay this letter to the Security Council immediately and distribute it as one of the council's documents."

Even before the Iraqi offer, President Bush asserted the war was almost over, and Mr. Fitzwater said the president has turned his attention more to post-war questions.

He gave the White House response to Baghdad's announcement as Mr. Bush was delivering a speech at nearby hotel outlining his domestic policy initiatives.

"The war is almost over," Mr. Bush opened his remarks by saying. "The liberation of Kuwait, the country is almost complete."

"We're going to concentrate on ending that thing and ending it right and then moving forward and staying with these enormous challenges that these countries face, and we can be helpful there," Mr. Bush told U.S. and Eastern European business leaders and officials.

British government officials also said that Iraq's latest offer for a ceasefire in the Gulf war was deficient and any halt to hostilities would come only when Baghdad accepted all Security Council resolutions.

"We have not received official confirmation but as described this would still be deficient," a senior official said.

Meanwhile, India said it was conferring with the Soviet Union and China on ways to end the war. The three were among the few major nations that opposed a ground war.

Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar told parliament that India had contacted the Soviet Union and China about ceasefire conditions, and that the Soviet Union had approached Iraq. He did not elaborate.

The Soviet Union, which tried to negotiate a peace settlement with Iraq before the allies launched the ground assault, has urged the United Nations to call an immediate ceasefire.

But Britain, France, Germany, Egypt, Turkey and other nations said withdrawal alone was not enough.

Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar meanwhile lauded the allied coalition's capture of Kuwait's capital, while nations joined Mr. Bush in demanding more concessions from Iraq.

French President Francois Mitterrand reiterated that French forces would not participate in any allied advance on Baghdad.

In Paris, Labour Minister Jean-Pierre Soisson quoted Mr. Mitterrand as telling the French cabinet: "The battlefield at this time is Kuwait and the zone around it. The noose is tightening around the Iraqi troops."

Mr. Mitterrand said France would remain loyal to its allies. But France maintains an attack on Baghdad aimed at toppling President Saddam would fall outside the scope of the U.N. mandate to free Kuwait.

Iraq said Wednesday that although its soldiers had completed their pullout from Kuwait, allied military assaults continued, including an airborne troop landing.

A military spokesman said Wednesday that the allies landed at an air base near Nassiriya, some 280 kilometres south of Baghdad, and were facing stiff resistance from Iraqi civilians and units of the popular army militia.

The Iraqi army, "by the first light this morning," finished the pullout from Kuwait, the military spokesman said over Baghdad Radio.

The spokesman said the action fulfilled orders by President Saddam, "although the enemy has interfered in the withdrawal of our forces and demonstrated all his cowardly, mean and lowly characteristics while trying to harm our units."

The military statement said the allies had miscalculated in thinking that the withdrawal from Kuwait would enable them to "humiliate Iraq."

Baghdad Radio also said that the continued fighting proved Iraq was the victim of a conspiracy mounted by Israel, the United States, Britain and France to take control of Iraq and the Arab Nation.

In a commentary, said that the allies were trying to obstruct issuance of a cease-fire resolution by the Security Council.

Baghdad Radio said it had shot down four allied warplanes during a series of raids Tuesday and Wednesday which hit residential and civilian targets. The radio said that a number of civilians had been killed in the raids.

The radio announced enemy airborne troops had landed at the strategic town of Nassiriya and were fighting for control of the main route for Iraqi forces withdrawing from Kuwait.

"Their aim was clearly become to invade Iraq," Baghdad Radio said.

"The army and people of Iraq will remain a rock... fighters... tear the enemies everywhere into pieces."

The announcement coincided with air raid sirens sounding through the Iraqi capital.

In the spring air, the muffled roar of low-flying aircraft from the U.S.-led allied forces was amplified by low cloud.

Sirens screamed three times during the morning after a series of heavy attacks through the night.

The targets were outside the capital where warm morning sunshine brought Iraqis out onto the streets, many staying close to portable radios to follow news of the war.

Iraq's military command announced that the people and popular army were courageously battling the invaders who landed by air near a Nassiriya base.

Iraqi radio described the airborne landing in Dhal Qar governorate as a gamble. "Dhal Qar will swallow you... all our masses are waiting for you, O misfits and losers," it said.

Basra

(Continued from page 1)

strategy in the war relied on two feints that apparently took the Iraqis by surprise.

One was the threat of an amphibious assault on the Kuwaiti coast. It was a ruse, Gen. Schwarzkopf said, designed to force the Iraqis to concentrate their forces along the coast — which they did.

The other was a last-minute shift of vast numbers of allied soldiers from east to west, allowing them to drive deep into Iraq well west of the western flank of Iraqi forces.

Gen. Schwarzkopf said the scale of the move was unprecedented in military history, and said it was undertaken only after the allies achieved air supremacy, depriving Iraq of its ability to see what was going on in Saudi Arabia.

It allowed the allies — particularly French forces and the U.S. 101st airborne division — to strike deep into Iraq and outflank the Republican Guards, cutting off their route home to Baghdad.

At that point, Gen. Schwarzkopf contended, the allies could have gone to Baghdad themselves.

Dutch

(Continued from page 1)

he "extremely stand-offish, as far as we're concerned, in view of the role played... by the PLO leadership in the Gulf conflict."

Mr. Van den Broek said he was referring to Mr. Arafat "in the same terms I have used about Saddam Hussein's future (as Iraqi leader)."

"The political survival of Saddam Hussein is in the first place a matter of the Iraqi people," Mr. Van den Broek said.

However, if either President Saddam or Mr. Arafat were to remain in office, "that would make a stable (Middle East) peace a lot more difficult, if not impossible," he said.

Since the beginning of the Gulf war, the Netherlands has reverted to its long tradition of support for Israel and dispatched a battery of Patriot missiles to protect the Jewish state from attack by Iraqi-launched rockets.

The Dutch government had backed the Jewish state almost unconditionally during two successive Arab-Israeli wars.

However, Dutch contacts with the PLO had warmed after Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and its repression of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Since the mid-1980s, the PLO has had an office in the Hague which has no official status but whose head was frequently seen at diplomatic functions.

Casualties

(Continued from page 1)

been announced by U.S. military authorities in Saudi Arabia, who had listed four American soldiers killed as of Tuesday night.

Gen. Schmitt said the seven Americans died when looking for explosives on Tuesday at Al Salman airfield on the Western side of the allied thrust into Iraq, half-way between the Saudi-Iraqi border and the River Euphrates.

Gen. Schmitt, head of the French joint chiefs of staff, said at a news conference two of the dead Americans were officers.

Two French commandos were also killed and 25 were wounded while searching the Al Salman fort, headquarters of an Iraqi division. One of the injured was

critically ill and four were seriously hurt.

Gen. Schmitt said it was not clear whether the blasts were caused by Iraqi booby traps, landmines or cluster bombs dropped earlier by allied war planes.

The first American woman soldier reported killed in the Gulf war was among the victims of an Iraqi missile attack on a U.S. barracks outside Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, her family learned Wednesday.

The army notified Christine Mayes' parents of her death, her father, Franklin Mayes said.

The 22-year-old Mayes was assigned to the 11th Quartermaster detachment, a water purification unit. She was one of the 29 killed in the missile attack Monday. In addition, 100 troops were injured, military officials said.

Egyptians

(Continued from page 1)

disperse demonstrators. Students say that police bullets killed the six. Police said one student died Monday. The cause of death has not been revealed, but a senior officer at the scene denied that security forces used live ammunition at any time.

He also denied claims by demonstration leaders that two people were seriously hurt on Wednesday, one by a tear-gas canister that struck his eye.

A military communiqué said meanwhile Egyptian troops destroyed an Iraqi army division; Wednesday following a pitched battle in the allied advance on Kuwait City.

"Fighting lasted for several hours and resulted in the destruction of most equipment of the Iraqi division and large numbers of Iraqis were taken prisoner," the statement said.

It added that many tanks, artillery pieces and large quantities of ammunition were seized in the battle fought by the 4th armoured division, pride of the Egyptian army.

Earlier Wednesday the Egyptian division "liberated" the Kuwaiti town of Al Jahara and the Al Al Salem military airport, west of the capital.

Egyptian advance units also hoisted their national flag over the deserted Egyptian embassy.

Egypt has some 35,000 troops serving in the multinational force in the Gulf.

Sabah

(Continued from page 1)

Two divisions of U.S. marines had encircled Kuwait City, which Iraqi forces mostly evacuated, and fought a battle with Iraqi armour at the international airport. It was retaken Wednesday.

Marines then moved into the city and, accompanied by U.S. and Saudi special forces troops and Kuwaiti fighters, combed neighbourhoods for Iraqi soldiers.

Early Wednesday, Kuwaiti soldiers, who had marched with the marines into the city, raised the flag in downtown Flag Square — the traditional site of celebrations on Kuwait's national day.

The Saudi commander of the multinational force's Arab and Islamic forces Wednesday urged Kuwaitis not to seek immediate return to their homes because of mines and booby traps.

"I appeal to the masses of sister Kuwait — not to seek a quick return to their homes," said Saudi General Khalid Ben Sultan, nephew of Saudi King Fahd, in a statement issued from his headquarters in the Saudi capital of Riyadh.

"For the aggressor has left many mines and booby traps inside and outside homes."

"War battles, and liberation and purging measures, are still continuing on the territory of the state (of Kuwait)," he said.

Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

our various resources to protect Iraq from an American-Zionist conspiracy dreaming of defeating the Arab will," the PFLP said in a statement.

The group condemned the allied forces for continuing their attack against withdrawing Iraqi forces and said this "proved the liberation of Kuwait was not the main objective of the allied forces."

Angry Palestinian students Wednesday called on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to use chemical weapons against American forces and for "Arabs to attack American interests in the world."

More than 6,000 students staged a two-hour demonstration in the refugee camp of Ain Al Hilweh in protest of the allied forces war against Iraq.

"With our blood and our soul we sacrifice for you, O Saddam," read one banner. "Hit them with your chemicals and all over the world, oh hero," read another.

Cheney

(Continued from page 1)

was deferring to Saudi Arabia on Iraq's future by ending meetings with representatives of Iraq's opposition.

Mr. Schiffer told Mr. Yatron's human rights subcommittee he believes his staff is continuing contacts with such representatives.

A report in Tuesday's Washington Post newspaper from Jim Hoagland in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, said the Saudi royal family "is concerned about the pressures that would be exerted by a democratic Baghdad regime, which would undoubtedly bring the Kurds and Shi'ites to prominent political roles they have been denied in the past."

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, speaking at London's Heathrow airport before leaving for Washington, said it was not an aim of the allies to decide who governed Iraq.

"We are just making sure that Iraqi aggression is reversed and that is what is happening," he told reporters.

"I wouldn't want people to feel that making the Middle East a sensible, orderly, peaceful place is going to be at all easy because obviously it is not," Mr. Hurd said.

"Arrangements for the future have to be rooted in the area. We can't work out a British plan or an American plan or a European plan, but equally we have got to be ready to stimulate ideas and help where we can."

A prominent Kurdish leader has said his movement is not seeking a separate state in Iraq but will work for democracy in Baghdad.

"We shall not be a separatist regime. We are not separatist. What is important is that Iraq's new regime must be democratic," Jalal Talebani told the Turkish daily Gunes in an interview published Wednesday.

"Democracy will be the cure, the remedy of Iraq," said Mr. Talebani who heads the Kurdish Patriotic Union.

Turkey, which has a large Kurdish minority, says it will not tolerate an independent Kurdish state in Iraq.

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Cruyff suffers heart attack

BARCELONA (R) — Johan Cruyff, coach of Barcelona Football Club and one of the greatest players of the 1970s, suffered a heart attack Tuesday and is in intensive care in a Barcelona clinic, a hospital spokesman said.

The spokesman would give no information on the 43-year-old Dutchman's condition.

Spanish state radio earlier reported that Cruyff had gone to a clinic himself for treatment and was then rushed to the specialist heart unit of the San Jordi Surgical Centre.

Cruyff, three times European Player of the Year, had a dazzling playing career with Ajax of Amsterdam, Barcelona and in the Dutch national team.

He is in his third season as coach of Barcelona, who are currently well clear in this year's

Spanish first division title race. The intolerable strain put on top soccer coaches has been starkly highlighted by Cruyff and Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish in recent days.

Cruyff's illness will, however, shock the soccer world and leave coaches asking if rich financial rewards are adequate compensation for the pressure imposed by directors and fans craving success.

"There is a time when you have been under a microscope and under pressure for 15 years when the stress begins to tell," Cruyff said earlier this week.

"It's at that moment that you realise you are struggling to sleep in the evenings and that the pressure is starting to affect your family. That is the moment to go," he added.

His words echoed the comments of Kenny Dalglish, who resigned as manager of English champions Liverpool last Friday, turning his back on Britain's premier club and an estimated annual salary of £200,000 (\$385,000).

Liverpool were leading the league and still in the Football Association (F.A.) Cup but the strain of the job had become too much for the 39-year-old Scot.

"The biggest problem was the pressure I was putting myself under in my desire to be successful... Kenny Dalglish the person had pushed himself to the limit," he said.

Cruyff's Barcelona, like Dalglish's Liverpool, are a successful side — top of their domestic league and through to the last

eight of the European Cup Winners' Cup.

"So if the pressure is unbearable for winning coaches, what of the losers?"

Former England midfielder Alan Ball provides an insight into the trials of running a struggling team.

Ball resigned as manager of third division Stoke City last Saturday and is considering quitting soccer because of the abuse he suffered from the team's fans.

"The way I feel right now I might walk away from the game. My only immediate plans are to spend more time with my family," he said.

Ball said he was even spat on by disillusioned supporters.

"No-one deserves that kind of abuse," Ball said.

Connors beaten in comeback bid

CHICAGO (AP) — Jimmy Connors, coming back after a nearly six-month layoff to the sport he once dominated, could not scrape the rust off his game fast enough to avoid a 6-3, 6-0 pounding Tuesday by Peru's Jaime Yzaga in the first round of the Volvo-Chicago Tournament.

The 38-year-old left-hander had not played a match since losing to Ronald Agener at Toulouse, France, early last October. He underwent surgery on his left wrist later that month, then spent nine weeks in a cast.

"Was I nervous to play? Yeah, a little," Connors said. "But not about playing. I was nervous to see how my wrist would hold up."

Connors said the loss hardly discouraged him and called his comeback effort "a day-to-day thing." He refused to set a deadline for determining how long he would continue, but said he hoped his game would improve enough to warrant a shot at the U.S. Open, which he has won five times.

"It feels a lot different playing tennis than helping my boy with

his homework — which is what I've been doing for most of the last year or so," he added.

A clue to the condition of Connors' surgically repaired wrist came as early as the first point of his match, when he decisively ended a 14-shot rally by rifling a cross-court winner off the backhand side.

Connors quickly followed that up by calling out of Yzaga. "I didn't mean it," drawing a laugh from the spectators at court-side, and showing he hadn't lost any of his ability to work a tennis crowd, either.

He went on to break the Peruvian's service at love, but it soon became clear Connors was not sharp enough to play competitive tennis, even against the 65th-ranked Yzaga. Both his court coverage and return of service were lacking and his 23-year-old opponent quickly took advantage by coming to the net and playing sharply angled shots from the front court.

Connors has broken in the fourth and eighth games and Yzaga closed out the first set on serve

in the ninth game when Connors, fighting back from 0-40 to deuce, buried an unforced forehand into the net.

The second set went even worse for Connors. He managed to win just seven points, lost all three of his service games and lost the match when Yzaga sliced a backhand volley into the open court.

"His game is not far down," Yzaga said.

The 58-minute match marked the beginning of Connors' 20th season of professional tennis. With none of the top 18 ranked players in the world entered at the Chicago stop, Connors accepted a wild-card entry into the field from promoters who hope his name would work as a draw.

In what must have seemed to most spectators like a misprint, Connors, who held the game's no. 1 ranking from 1974 to 1978 (and remained among the top 10 through 1988), had tumbled all the way to 97th by the time he arrived in Chicago.

Dalglish, Beckenbauer ruled out as U.S. coaches

NEW YORK (AP) — Franz Beckenbauer and Kenny Dalglish have been ruled out as possible coaches for the U.S. national soccer team, U.S. Soccer Federation President Alan Rothenberg said.

Boh Gansler quit Saturday as the U.S. coach, two days after the Americans were shut out for the sixth straight time. The favorite to succeed him is Bora Milutinovic, a Yugoslavian who coached Mexico at the 1986 World Cup and Costa Rica at the 1990 World Cup.

Beckenbauer, who coached West Germany to the World Cup title last summer, was thought to be the ideal choice, since he was a star for the New York Cosmos after leading West Germany to the 1974 World Cup title. Beckenbauer, now technical director of Olympique Marseille in France, is scheduled to become a consultant to the 1994 World Cup Organizing Committee.

"We had never talked to him about coaching," Rothenberg said Tuesday. "That was never part of the equation. I don't think that's his best use. It's one thing to coach a national team like the Germans, where everything is organized and compressed and there's so much history. But it's another thing to come to our programme."

Dalglish, who coached Liverpool to English League titles in 1988 and 1990, became available Friday after he surprisingly resigned as the Reds coach, complaining of the pressure of the job. He had been mentioned as Gansler's replacement in English publications.

"No, he's not a possibility," Rothenberg said in a telephone interview from his Los Angeles office. "They rumoured him a couple months ago. I am generally not commenting on individuals, but on this one I will."

Richardson takes boxing title away from Perez

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — Fourth-ranked American Greg Richardson used lightning quick punches to take the World Boxing Council (WBC) bantamweight title from Mexico's Raul Perez in a unanimous 12-round points decision Monday.

Perez, 24, in the eighth defence of the title he won in 1988, was unable to hurt the 35-year-old challenger despite landing several blows flush on Richardson's chin.

"I knew I'd win in the first round. I felt like I was in control and that he couldn't hurt me," Richardson said after the fight.

The Mexican's height advantage proved of little use as Richardson slipped Perez's punches and countered with inside rights.

Perez, who had not lost since

1986, wept after the defeat.

"All I know is that I got beat," Perez told reporters before bursting into tears.

The win raised Richardson's record to 28 wins and three defeats. Perez fell to 47-2-1.

Perez was regarded by his fans as invincible. Little did they know that in Richardson, he had to contend with a smaller version of a legend.

"What you're looking at here is a little Sugar Ray Robinson," Richardson's trainer, Earl Charity, said after Richardson upset Perez. "He's patterned himself after Sugar Ray. He's 33, but he's a young 33."

Perez, who sobbed uncontrollably in his dressing room after the fight, took a few minutes to compose himself.

Foreman aiming for quick knockout against Holyfield

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (R) — George Foreman believes he can become heavyweight champion of the world again 17 years after he lost the title and predicts he will knock out champion Evander Holyfield in two rounds.

"I am going to be the next heavyweight champion of the world. Can you believe that? A man closer to 50 than he is to 20," Foreman said.

"I am going to recapture the title, it's my destiny nothing is going to stop me." The former champion, passing through Bridgetown on his way to St. Lucia to prepare for his title fight against fellow American Holyfield on April 19 in Atlantic City, New Jersey, added: "I am going to knock him out in two rounds."

"My idea is to be the oldest heavyweight champion in the world, and be the only guy to get the heavyweight belt and a social

security cheque at the same time."

Foreman, now 43, has won all 24 of his fights since he began his comeback three years ago after a 10-year break from the ring in a bid to regain the title he lost to Muhammad Ali in 1974.

Doubts that the fight would take place were unfounded, said Foreman.

The Mexico City-based World Boxing Council (WBC) has said it would not sanction the bout on the grounds that Holyfield, who won the title last year from James "Buster" Douglas, should fight former champion Mike Tyson next because he is its top contender.

"I am going to be the next heavyweight champion of the world and nobody is going to stop it — the WBC, the WBA, IBF. It's all sanctioned," added Foreman.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MARCH 1, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will be busy dealing with many activities that started with yesterday's Full Moon but don't allow an old obstacle from the past to interrupt a sour note on your present involvements.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A day to enlarge your consciousness of the good things of life so that you can have more of them and also be able to enjoy yourself as well in other ways.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Examine your own personal desires and see if they concur with what has been found to operate most satisfactorily for others for a long time.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is the moment for you to get off alone for a little while and to think about what you most desire in the future and to take initial practical steps.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Whatever brings you the goodwill of friends you have known for sometime is the right avenue by which you can gain your desired aims.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You want to have more public recognition for what you have been doing but you find those most able to give it are too occupied with their own interests.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Make a point to gain the good

will of others by the very willingness that is yours to see other persons' standpoints and to grow along with them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You like to have everything neat and exact with others almost more than any other sign of the heavens as a matter of fact this is your day.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is the moment for you to find out what others expect of you in the realm of policy matters so make decisions with others for the future.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can get so many projects done by refusing to stop and mull things over that you'd be wise to early schedule your course of action.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) There are some pretty clever persons who will show you a good time as you prefer but make sure they do not make you pay through the nose for the fun.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is the time for you to make sure you do nothing that can in anyway upset members of your family or your household or trouble occur.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make much over the little things you must do to have statements, reports, documents, sales, purchases, appointments and all minute plans just right now.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY FEBRUARY 28, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This last day of the month brings a Virgo Full Moon that should be good for stimulating you to much activity where new projects and ventures are concerned, open new avenues of expression.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can take a good look at your property and possessions and make some decisions what you wish to do about them in the future without further delay.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A day to make sure you get dolled up in your most attractive garb and get out in the world of action and let all there know your desires.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever you have that is secret in its nature would be wise for you to work on now and avoid that tendency to let others know your intentions.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Many persons whom you know and like are not apt to be doing just what you think that they should be doing so use tact to persuade them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have the opportunity to go straight to the most prominent official, bigwig with whom you have any contact to find what he will do to aid you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take some time out now to investigate some new means by

which to show that you have the ability and the open mindedness to gain the good will of all about you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think out this day how you can better please all of your contacts by their emotional, business, executive, romantic or official.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make a point to open up your standpoints to that partner with whom you want to have a longtime association but don't be demanding of your potential.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are some very interesting matters you can do this day that are usually impossible during the week so get at them early and get them behind you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is the time when your own aims and ambitions are fine if you think up some new ways by which you can use your special talents to forge ahead.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are now able to find your own family is ready to go on the warpath if you try to make them do the things that you think they should do.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the time to get off with allies and join them in gaining more efficiency, comfort and pleasure with your allies but use care on the highway.

THE BETTER HALF.

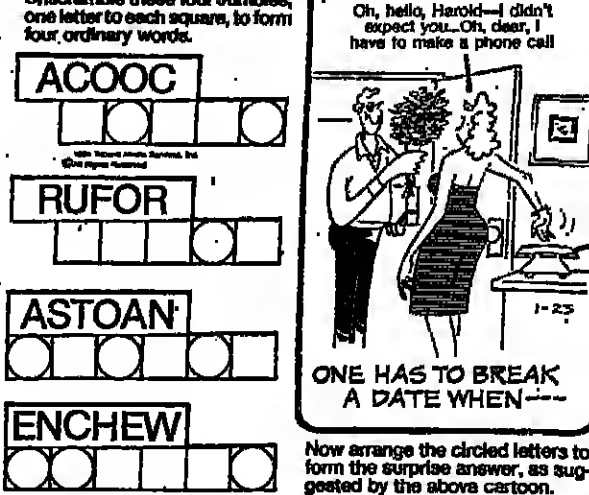
By Harris



"Your body isn't so bad, Harriet. Your elbows don't look a day over 18!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



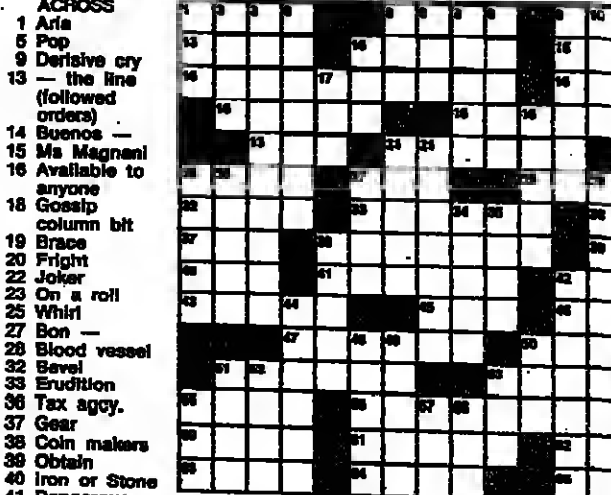
Answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: CRAZY SWISH TYPIST BELONG

Answer: He was so rich that his "net" income enabled him to continue — HIS "GROSS" HABITS

THE Daily Crossword

by Stanley S. Whitman



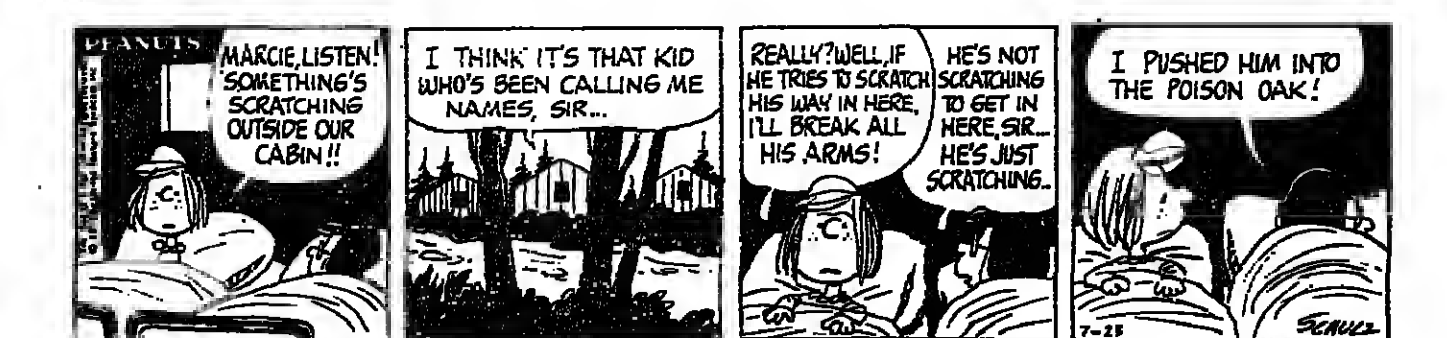
ACROSS
1 Arle
5 Pop
6 Denial cry
13 — the line (followed orders)
14 Success —
15 Ma Magali
16 Available to anyone
18 Gospel column bit
19 Brace
20 Frigate
21 Joker
22 On a roll
23 Whirl
27 Bon —
28 Blood vessel
32 Erection
33 Tax apogee
37 Gear
38 Coin makers
39 Obtain
40 Iron or Stone
41 Dangerous
42 Burn slightly
43 Earn
45 — Aviv
46 Pweminger
47 Lector
50 Ararat's org.
51 Stolen goods
53 Musical
54 Liable
55 Oven
56 Derby site
60 — he will (not utter)
61 Gr. Island
62 Party snack
63 Minister to
64 FBI or EPA
65 Method: abbr.

DOWN
1 Arle
2 Sorry!
3 Radical
4 Fragrance
5 Producer
6 Raleigh's title
7 Billie past due
8 Station
9 Seal group
10 Ill temper
11 Ken of "Thirty-something"
12 Dallas school letters
13 Insects
14 Krazy —
15 Mrs. In Barcelona
16 Frequently
17 "Thirty-something"
18 Dallas school letters
19 Coterie

Mutt'n'Jeff



Peanuts



Andy Capp



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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HELP PARTNER FIND THE WAY

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 7 4 2
♥ Q J 5
♦ Q 6
♣ K 10 8 4

WEST
♠ A 5
♥ Q 8 6
♦ 10 5 4 2
♣ 9 7 5

EAST
♠ J 6
♥ A K 3
♦ 10 5 4 2
♣ Q J 6 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q 9 8 3
♥ 10 7 4 2
♦ A 9
♣ A 3

The bidding:
East South West North
1 NT 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠
Pass 4 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♣

When you were learning to play bridge, you were taught a number of sound principles, all of which, we are sure, have stood you in good stead over the years. But no rules can ever substitute for common sense.

After East's minimum 15-17 point no-trump opening bid, North-South stretched a little to get to the spade game. It might seem that declarer must lose two heart tricks and one each in diamonds and

spades, but watch how the play developed.

With no indication of what to lead, West chose the wrong red suit—a diamond salvo would have settled matters at the opening gun. Declarer cleverly covered with dummy's jack and East's king won. With no good return, East chose to exit with a trump. West grabbed the ace and, thinking that gold had been struck with the opening lead, reverted to the right of hearts. East took his ace, but that was the last trick for the defense—after drawing trumps, declarer was able to discard a diamond on the ten of hearts.

From East's point of view, the desirability of a diamond lead from partner is manifest. Therefore, East should try to convince partner that a heart continuation would be futile. That can be achieved easily enough. East should win the first trick with the ace of hearts, not the king! Now when West gains the lead, it seems that the defenders must score two tricks in the minors to defeat the declarer. Since there is no place for declarer to park any club losers, West should shift to a diamond. That allows the defenders to collect the four tricks that are their due.

Japan, U.S. may clash over channelling post-war Gulf aid

TOKYO (R) — Once the Gulf conflict is over, Japan and the United States may clash over how to channel the vast sums of aid needed to repair damage, Japanese government officials said Wednesday.

Tokyo is willing to extend a substantial sum for Middle East reconstruction, but wants to channel the money through existing agencies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

But Washington, hoping to gain as much control as possible over post-war reconstruction, policy, would seek to establish a new multilateral aid framework, they said.

"We wouldn't reject the U.S. plan outright, but our basic approach is to go along with the World Bank and the IMF," one government official said.

Officials said reconstruction of the Gulf region could best be addressed by international financial institutions with their know-how and experience in making the best use of aid money.

"The IMF and other multilateral institutions should play a

very important central role not only as supplier of the money but to ensure the most efficient use of the money in that region," said Makoto Utsumi, vice finance minister for international affairs.

Such a Japanese approach could clash with a U.S. plan to create a new multilateral development bank.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker proposed this month that a Middle East bank for reconstruction be set up to help repair the destruction caused by the Gulf conflict.

He said the bank could be established along similar lines to a bank founded last year to help East European countries recover from the ravages of communism.

But Japanese officials said creating any new international framework would require a lot of time and could delay timely economic aid.

"If you set up a new multilateral bank, you must go through a maze of diplomatic red tape in country after country, and it could easily take one year or so to decide just on the staff and its

location," one finance ministry official said.

Utsumi said existing institutions could do an equally good job, with the IMF giving guidance on macroeconomic policy while the World Bank provided aid with structural reform.

"In our minds, multilateral institutions are at the centre of the solution... with this at the centre, we are ready to play a reasonable part," he said.

Along this line, Tokyo is considering setting up a special facility at the World Bank, and this could work as a vehicle to solicit contributions from other donor nations as well, the first ministry official said.

Another idea, he said, was to form a World Bank-led multinational consortium to coordinate aid policy towards Iraq and other hard-hit Middle East nations.

But despite Japan's wish to have its money administered by the existing institutions, the United States would hope that any multinational aid fund would be controlled by Washington and that the World Bank and other inter-

national financial agencies would play only a supplementary role, officials said.

In fact, Baker has said of the planned bank: "There would have to be American leadership... economically as well. But I'm not suggesting that we pick up a tab."

A similar squabble between Tokyo and Washington was evident last year, when donor nations discussed ways to aid the so-called front-line states — Egypt, Jordan and Turkey — hard-hit by the fallout from Iraq's August invasion of Kuwait.

Japan insisted then that its money be channelled through the World Bank and the IMF, at both of which Tokyo holds the second largest voting power.

But the Japanese plan was crushed by Washington, which pushed through its idea of setting up a multilateral task force headed by American officials.

"We wouldn't undercut U.S. leadership role. America is the only nation that can exert the real political leadership anyway," said one official. "But we'll watch carefully."

Taiwan eyes M.E. business after war

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan will send business delegations to the Gulf as soon as fighting stops in the hope of making big profits trading with the Middle East, officials said Wednesday.

"Business is just like war, and we will not waste time in snatching every opportunity in the Middle East," said David Liu, a deputy director at the semi-official China External Trade Development Council.

The council hopes to send at least two groups of local businessmen to Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait,

Jordan, Egypt and Turkey next month, Liu said.

He said the groups would focus on selling medical equipment, building materials, food products, machinery, auto parts, electronics and household appliances. "We anticipate big demand for these products," he said.

Vice Economic Minister Chiang Ping-Kun told reporters that "we see lots of business opportunities after the war ends" as Middle Eastern countries rebuild themselves and consumer demand picks up.

Kuwait stresses no intention to sell assets

LONDON (R) — Kuwaiti authorities will not sell major international assets to raise the money to rebuild their country despite large-scale destruction, Kuwait's finance minister said Tuesday.

Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah Ali told British Broadcasting Corporation radio that damage to Kuwait was worse than he feared and that his government would demand reparations from Iraq.

"We will not liquidate any core investments. We will not throw millions and millions of stocks onto the market. We are responsible investors," he said.

Hundreds of Kuwaiti oil wells have been set on fire and reporters in Kuwait City say the parliament building and several hotels destroyed. Power and desalination plants have also been destroyed or badly damaged.

Kuwaiti officials have said they are ready to spend up to \$800 million to restore emergency health care, sanitation, communications, transport, utilities, food and water supplies in the first three months.

He said the government's first priority would be to supply food, medicine and water to people

Kuwaiti dinar resurrected

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kuwaiti dinar, regarded only seven weeks ago by many as almost worthless paper, has swung back into hectic trading in the black market in Jordan, with dealers offering as much as JD 1.600 Wednesday noon compared with 500 fils in the first week of the Gulf war.

Much of trading Tuesday and Wednesday was done near the embassy of Kuwait, where Kuwaitis and many former residents of the emirate converged after hearing the news of Iraq's withdrawal from the sheikhdom which it invaded on Aug. 2. "Small-time operators" in downtown Amman were also doing the buying Wednesday, banking officials said.

The "going" rate Monday evening was around 900 fils; it rose to JD 1.2 Tuesday morning, JD 1.2 at noon and JD 1.35 by "closing" Tuesday evening, according to sources. The "opening" at JD 1.4 Wednesday morning and reached JD 1.6 at noon, and the "closing" was not immediately available.

"I expect it to reach JD 2 Thursday morning," said a banking official, who keeps a close tap on the black market, otherwise known as "parallel market."

The bulk of the currency bought by middlemen was finding its way to businessmen, according to bankers who theorised that the buyers are hoping to do with Kuwait in the post-war reconstruction period.

In the initial weeks and months

that followed the Iraqi invasion, the Kuwaiti dinar, once one of the strongest currency in the international market, changed hands for as little as 100 Jordanian fils compared with a pre-invasion rate of JD 2.2. Most of the sellers were otherwise penniless Asian and Arab evacuees who transited Jordan.

Less than two weeks into the occupation, Iraq merged the Iraqi and Kuwaiti dinars and declared them of equal exchange value: around \$3.2 at official rates but less than eight per cent of it in the unofficial trading rates.

In October, Iraq banned the Kuwaiti dinar from circulation in Kuwait and Iraq, but the toppled Kuwaiti emir regime had made arrangements with several leading Saudi banks and financial institutions to buy the currency and offer pre-invasion rates to Kuwaiti nationals and market prices to others.

Subsequently, as news reached Jordan that a leading Saudi money exchange firm, apparently acting as an agent for the emir regime, was buying the dinar in Saudi Arabia as well as the United Arab Emirates, the black market exchange rate went up to around 500 to 600 fils and then to JD 1. However, trading dried up since November, dealers said.

Most Jordanian banks eliminated the Kuwaiti dinar from their trading lists, but at least two banks, at the behest of the Jordanian government, did accept the currency at a rate of one to one with the Jordanian dinar on a

"deposit-cum-loan" basis pending the outcome of the Gulf crisis. "Much of the Kuwaiti dinar coming out now is from former expatriates of Kuwait and those boarded the currency for speculation," a dealer commented on the newfound demand this week.

Banks are waiting

But no Jordanian bank yet is accepting the dinar, apparently awaiting moves by the Central Bank of Kuwait.

"We might be getting official instructions as well as signals from the market soon to include the Kuwaiti dinar in our trading," said an official at the Islamic Bank, one of the last Jordanian institutions to deal in the emirate's currency. "Until then we are staying away from touching it."

According to a senior official of the Grindlays Bank, "everything depends of what the Kuwaiti authorities decide to do."

"I believe that they will restore the currency at its pre-invasion rates in the first few weeks to instil confidence in the market and then implement further measures to consolidate the situation more realistically," he told the Jordan Times.

"It is also possible that they might decide to withdraw or replace high denomination notes such as the 20-dinar notes," he added.

In any event, the banker noted, the value of the currency depends on the reserves of the country; and in the case of Kuwait this should not be a problem since the

regime has tens of billions stashed away abroad and the funds it "contributed" to the war effort represented only a fraction of Kuwaiti holdings.

Reports in the British press have indicated that the government-in-exile of Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah has ordered new currency printed in Britain. But it was not known when the new notes would be ready or when the money in circulation would be replaced.

The emir regime, operating out of the Saudi town of Taif where it moved itself in exile, has said that Iraqis had seized a large amount of unreleased Kuwaiti dinars, fresh from mint, from the central bank vaults in Kuwait and these notes might have found their way to the market.

Caution needed

According to a dealer in Amman, these notes, whose serial numbers were announced by the Kuwaitis, were fetching only 600 fils in the black market in Amman. "There is no guarantee that these 'dented' notes would be accepted by the Kuwaitis, but still people are taking their chances," he said.

No accurate estimate is available on the volume of Kuwaiti dinars in Jordan, but the executive director of a leading Jordanian bank said, it could be as much as 60 to 70 million, the bulk of them with expatriates who returned home from Kuwait following the invasion and speculators.

Belgium gives France, Britain \$32m for war

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium will give British and France \$32.2 million towards the cost of the Gulf war, Budget Minister Hugo Schlitz said Tuesday.

But the Belgian government has not yet decided how to split the financial aid between the two countries, which are part of the U.S.-led coalition fighting Iraq. Schlitz was quoted as saying by the national news agency Belga.

In reply to a parliamentary question, he said Belgium's financial contribution to the war might rise if other allied countries asked for aid.

Belgium was criticised in London when it refused an earlier British request for ammunition to support the Gulf war effort.

Prime Minister Wilfried Martens later described the refusal as a mistake.

Egyptian banks report hectic trade after freeing of pound

CAIRO (R) — Banks reported a confused and hectic market Wednesday after Egypt began allowing its currency to be traded freely for the first time.

Foreign exchange dealers said the market got off to a slow start when it officially opened at 8.00 a.m. (0800 GMT), but quickly picked up steam as traders tested the new system.

"It is hectic," said one dealer. "The rates are crazy. The screen says one thing but on the phone banks will tell you something else."

Branches of more than 40 banks can now buy and sell the pound unhindered under the new system. Private money changers will be licensed to trade later.

Egyptians walked into banks to purchase dollars freely after years of tight state control.

The pound quickly dropped to near the old black rate of about

8.20 to the dollar from the official rate of 3.00/01.

Dealers began quoting the pound at 8.10/11, but by mid-afternoon rates had fallen a further one or two piers, bankers said.

One dealer said trade did not actually start until half an hour after the market opened, but within a few hours his bank had made large deals with both clients and other banks.

"There was total confusion today. We were busy all day," said the dealer. "It will take a few days for the market to settle down."

Some banks, initially cautious, quoted wide spreads between buying and selling prices.

"People are very careful," said a dealer at a smaller bank. "We were not very busy."

Tourists, Egyptians working

overseas and most importers can exchange currencies on the new market.

Important government transactions such as oil and cotton exports, Suez Canal tolls and wheat imports and some private deals will continue to be made at an official rate set within five per cent of the free market rate.

The central bank quoted transfers at the official rate, due to be abandoned completely within a year, at 3.020/050 points to the dollar at the opening of trade Wednesday.

The new system, announced late last month, is part of a series of financial reforms prescribed by the International Monetary Fund.

As part of the reforms the government earlier this year began allowing banks to set their own interest rates.

Oil prices rise as markets look beyond the Gulf war

LONDON (R) — Crude oil prices rose Wednesday as market participants looked beyond the end of the Gulf war and towards possible OPEC production cuts, market sources said.

The April futures contract for internationally traded North Sea Brent blend oil was up 44 cents from Tuesday's close at \$17.67 a barrel by 1300 GMT.

"At around \$16 a barrel, the price discount looked unreasonable," Steve Turner, analyst with London stockbrokers Smith New Court said.

"The market became forward-looking. It discounted an allied victory from the day war began," Turner said.

Oil slid to a seven month low of

\$16 a barrel last week, but has since risen with traders considering the likely post-war shape of oil and demand.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is holding a monitoring committee meeting on March 11. Smith New Court's Turner said: "We think OPEC will take action to cut production at the March 11 meeting and restore the \$21 marker price."

Many analysts and traders believe that in order to push prices up to the OPEC target price of \$21 and hold them there, the organisation will decide to return to the fixed output quotas which were suspended after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August.

sion of Kuwait last August.

Indonesian Oil Minister Gijanto Kartasasmita said Tuesday OPEC estimated demand for its oil in the second quarter of 1991 at 21.5 million barrels per day (b/d). Current production is just below 23 million barrels.

The likelihood that Iraq and Kuwait would not be able to produce substantial quantities of oil for several months due to structural damage was also seen by traders as a factor supporting dearer oil.

And traders said another supportive factor for prices was news Tuesday that the American Petroleum Institute stock figures showed U.S. crude inventories down 3.77 million barrels.

Britain cuts interest rates

LONDON (R) — Britain shaved interest rates Wednesday for the second time in two weeks in efforts to help the economy out of a recession.

The Bank of England (central bank) said it was cutting its money market lending rate by half a percentage point to 13 per cent, a signal to commercial banks to cut their base lending rates by the same margin.

The Conservative government of Prime Minister John Major last cut rates, to 13.5 from 14 per cent, on Feb. 13.

It has been under intense pressure to ease a credit squeeze which was imposed more than a year ago after a period of cheap money fuelled a consumer spending boom and triggered an inflationary spiral.

Inflation has now eased from a peak last autumn of nearly 11 per cent to nine per cent in January, making possible a gradual reduction of interest rates.

The National Westminster Bank PLC, Britain's biggest commercial bank, led others in cutting base lending rates to 13 per cent after the central bank's signal Wednesday.

The Halifax Building Society, the largest mortgage (home loan) lending institution, also responded by cutting its mortgage rate to 13.75 from 14.5 per cent.

The credit squeeze, besides crimping business activity and forcing the economy deep into recession, has caused anguish among millions of Britons.

The president of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), Sir Brian Corby, accused the government Tuesday of "overkill" with its high interest rate strategy.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES				
Wednesday, February 27, 1991				
Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	667.0	671.0	French franc	128.7
Pound Sterling	1280.3	1283.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	301.5
Deutschmark	437.4	440.0	Dutch guilder	388.1
Swiss franc	509.2	512.3	Swedish crown	117.9
			Italian lira (for 100)	58.6
			Belgian franc (for 10)	211.1
				212.2

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES				
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.				
One Sterling	1.9145/55	U.S. dollar		
One U.S. dollar	1.5077/17	Canadian dollar		
	1.5235/42	Deutschmarks		
	1.7188/98	Dutch guilders		
	1.3098/08	Swiss francs		
	31.38/43	Belgian francs		
	5.1770/20	French francs		
	1138/1139	Italian lire		
	132.45/55	Japanese yen		
	5.6570/20	Norwegian crowns		
	5.9550/6.0000	Swedish crowns		
	5.8530/80	Danish crowns		
One ounce of gold	360.00/360.50	U.S. dollars		

WORLD STOCK MARKETS				
SYDNEY — Sobering company profit announcements and a slump on Wall Street sent the All Ordinaries index down 23 points to 1390.4.				
TOKYO — The approach of the end of the Gulf war erased immediate buying incentives, leaving investors to take profits and worry about post-war economic conditions. The 225-share Nikkei index fell 188.71 points to 26,094.25.				
HONG KONG — The Hang Seng index eased 19.64 points to close at 3,512.79. Brokers said news from the Gulf was having little impact on the market.				
SINGAPORE — Singapore stocks started lower on profit-taking and falls abroad, sparking interest in selected blue chips. The Straits Times industrials ended 10.57 points to close at 1,443.35.				
BOMBAY — Shares rose despite profit-taking. The Bombay Stock Exchange index rose 16.35 points to 1,221.55. The National index gained 6.63 to 606.10.				
FRANKFURT — Scattered sharp gains helped the German share market recover from early lows and end 0.5 per cent higher. The 30-share DAX index ended 7.28 points up at 1,565.52.				
ZURICH — Swiss shares recovered from early losses and closed slightly higher. The all-share SPI index rose 6.8 points, or 0.67 per cent to 1,023.1, after falling earlier to 1,006.4.				
LONDON — Prices closed sharply higher in reaction to the 1/2 point cut in U.K. lending rates to 13 per cent. The FTSE 100 index ended 25.8 points up at 2,348 against a previous 1991 record of 2,335.5.				
NEW YORK — Wall Street Stocks were higher, with blue chips near the day's best levels. Stocks were lifted by signs the Gulf war is drawing to a close. The Dow was up 29 to 2,894 after nearly reaching 2,896.				

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Silvester Stallone
in
TANGO AND CASH

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

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PLAZA

PICASSO TRIGGER

Performances: 12:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

U.S. durable goods orders slump

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders to U.S. factories for big-ticket durable goods dropped 0.7 per cent in January, the government reported Tuesday.

Durable goods orders, which fell during six of 12 months in 1990, are a key economic barometer of manufacturing industry plans for production. A decrease in orders often results in a slump in that sector and subsequent layoffs.

The Commerce Department

said January orders for durable goods — items ranging from trucks to turbines that are expected to last more than three years — totaled a seasonally adjusted \$118.5 billion.

It was the second decline since orders reached a 1990 high of \$129.5 billion in October. They plummeted 10.1 per cent the following month but posted a 2.7 per cent gain in December.

The Labour Department reported the loss of 69,000 factory

jobs in January, bringing manufacturing job losses since January 1989 to 900,000.

Orders in the key category of non-defence capital goods, often an indication of business plans to expand and modernise, plunged 8.4 per cent to \$38.2 billion. A 16.6 per cent gain in December had erased a 14.1 per cent fall the previous month.

Defence orders, which had jumped 52.7 per cent in December before the hostilities broke out in the Gulf, dropped 9.8 per cent to \$7.3 billion in January. Excluding the defence category, orders fell 0.1 per cent.

Transportation orders also fell, posting a 3.7 per cent loss to \$30.7 billion. The decline resulted from a large drop in aircraft orders that offset a large increase in motor vehicles.

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Gorbachev denounces radicals

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev has gone on the offensive in his first official trip within the Soviet Union for more than a year, saying a radical against him could touch off a civil war.

Gorbachev, speaking in the conservative Republic of Byelorussia, also said superpower relations could suffer if the U.S.-led assault on Iraq was not halted.

He dismissed suggestions that he had abandoned his perestroika reforms and said no one had the right to act as a "teacher" and dictate policy to Moscow.

In an address to intellectuals in the Byelorussian capital Minsk, Gorbachev said radical politicians were resorting to "Neo-Bolshevik" tactics — demonstrations, protests and hunger strikes — in an unconstitutional bid for power.

"In recent days, these tactics have reached a peak. We therefore realise that they will fight from a position of psychological warfare — calls to dissolve parliament and force the resignation of

the president," he said.

"We reject any seizure of power by force because this will lead to a civil war."

Failure to stop the campaign, he said, compound economic failures and "lead to very stern measures. And then from the chaos will emerge methods of dictatorship."

Gorbachev issued his warning at the start of a three-day visit to Byelorussia which will include a tour of areas still affected by high radiation nearly five years after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

He has been widely criticised for not making a single domestic tour during the past year's turmoil in Soviet policies.

On his last trip, to Lithuania in January 1990, he lost his temper when confronted by separatist demonstrators or intellectuals critical of his policies.

Gorbachev's speech Tuesday was clearly directed at Boris Yeltsin, who called for the president's resignation last week, although he made no specific reference to his rival.

But in earlier comments to workers in Minsk, he accused Yeltsin of deserting Kremlin's six-year-old perestroika reforms.

Tens of thousands of radicals massed in Moscow last Sunday in the latest of a series of protests against what they see as a lurch by Gorbachev towards conservative policies.

Leaders of democratic Russia, the best organised of the country's pro-reform groups, called Tuesday for liberals to "declare themselves openly and unambiguously in opposition to the central administration led by Gorbachev."

They also urged voters to vote "no" in a March 17 referendum asking whether Soviet citizens favour maintaining the Soviet Union as a "renewed federation of equal, sovereign republics."

At least seven republics have said they will not take part.

In his comments on the Gulf war, reported by TASS news agency, Gorbachev said relations with the United States were still "fragile" and called for "re-

sponsible behaviour" from Washington.

He also said Moscow would not tolerate Western criticism of internal Soviet policy — a reference to international condemnation of violence last month in the Baltic republics, in which 21 people were killed.

"What we do is our own affair — as is the affair of any sovereign state," he said. "There have been attempts to act as a teacher, to look down upon us. This is unacceptable."

Meanwhile, the United Nations Human Rights Commission adopted a statement Tuesday night urging the Soviet Union to respect human rights in its Baltic republics.

The statement expressed "grave concern" at human rights violations in the independence-seeking Republics of Lithuania and Latvia last month when military and police actions led to the death of 13 people in Vilnius and of two civilians and two local policemen in Riga.

4 killed in Punjab bomb blast

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — A bomb exploded outside a shop owned by a Hindu in Punjab Tuesday, killing four people and injuring 17 others, and police said it was planted by Sikh militants.

Elsewhere in Punjab, soldiers fatally shot six Sikh civilians before dawn Tuesday, mistaking them for militants, police said.

Senior police superintendent Rajinder Singh said a bomb left inside a shop exploded outside a general store in Mukerian's main market when the afternoon "rush" was at its peak.

The store owner's 35-year-old son, Subhash Mahajan, his car driver and two customers were injured fatally in the blast. Singh, the district's top police official, said.

Mahajan, a lawyer, also was the local leader of a Hindu fundamentalist party, Singh said.

Singh was contacted by telephone in Hoshiarpur, the biggest town near Mukerian, a predominantly Hindu town 120 kilometres southeast of Amritsar.

Singh said all four of the dead were Hindus. The shopkeeper, Tarlok Mahajan, was among the 14 Hindus and three Sikhs who were injured, he added.

"The blast really rocked the town," Singh said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility, but Singh said the bomb was planted by one of the several Sikh separatist groups in Punjab.

Sikh militants have been fighting since 1982 to set up a separate nation in Punjab, a prosperous farming state. The campaign has largely been direct from Amritsar, Sikhism's holiest city, near the Pakistan border.

Soldiers patrolling the border area of Amritsar Tuesday fatally shot six Sikh men who abandoned their bullock cart and ran into nearby fields when they were asked to identify themselves, police said.

Deputy Inspector General Gurkhal Singh Bhullar said "it was a misunderstanding" and that the soldiers opened fire because the men tried to flee.

He said the Sikhs were carrying empty jerrycans and were apparently going to a nearby gasoline station in Burjathuk, 40 kilometres south of Amritsar.

Bhullar said the victims were "innocent civilians" and it was not immediately clear why they ran.

The government has ordered a compensation of 50,000 rupees (\$2,800) to each of the victims' family, Press Trust of India said.

Coup leader meets Thai king on new constitution

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's coup leader flew north Wednesday to consult the king on steps to usher in an interim government after the military overthrow of Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan.

Chatichai will remain in military custody until the provisional government is formed, military sources said.

The generals were searching for a civilian to lead the administration and shunted aside two top civil servants appointed by the deposed government to handle lucrative transport and communications projects.

The armed forces ousted Chatichai in a bloodless coup last Saturday and imposed martial law, ending more than two years of democratic rule in one of Asia's most rapidly developing countries.

They accused him of running a corrupt government and said they were acting to protect the fledgling democracy and not to hurry it.

Supreme Commander General Sunbhorn Kongsompong, the head of the junta that calls itself the National Peacekeeping Command, flew north to the mountain city of Chiang Mai for an audience with King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The revered monarch, who Tuesday endorsed the coup, was considering a draft of the provisional constitution that would give a legal framework to the junta and its policies.

The generals, condemned by many Western governments for their action, may be having difficulty finding a willing candidate to head a caretaker government, diplomats said.

Three people have already turned down the offer or been rejected, including former parliamentary President Uthit Mongkolkarn, the Nation newspaper said Wednesday.

"It's hard to find someone without a single skeleton in the cupboard, and those who are squeaky clean probably don't want to have anything to do with (the junta)," one diplomat said.

Chatichai will be kept in custody to ensure he does not interfere in the process, a military source said.

"We are treating him with respect, not like a criminal," he said.

Chatichai was taken off a plane at gunpoint by officers when the coup began. He has been held at the air force headquarters since then.

The interim government would decide whether he should face charges, the source said.

Italian film wins top prize in Berlin

BERLIN (R) — An Italian movie about love and sex in an old people's home won the Golden Bear Award for Best Picture at the Berlin Film Festival, edging out the acclaimed U.S. western *Dances With Wolves*.

The Casa Del Sorriso (House of Smiles) is directed by Marco Ferreri, best known for his 1973 film *La Grande Bouffe*, a gruesome satire about wealthy people who literally eat themselves to death.

In Ferreri's movie Ingrid Thulin, star of many Ingmar Bergman films, plays 70-year-old Adeline who once won a beauty contest and gains the heart of fellow resident Andrea, played by Dado Ruspoli, with the help of her alluring dentures. Kevin Costner won a Silver Bear for Best Individual Achievement as producer, actor and director in *Dances With Wolves*, about the impact of European settlers on Sioux Indian life. It has been nominated for 12 Oscars at the Academy Awards ceremony next month.

Maynard Eziashi took the Silver Bear Award for best actor in his screen debut as the imaginative but dishonest black clerk in *Mr. Johnson*, set in British colonial Nigeria. Victoria Abril was cited as Best Actress in *Amantes* (Lovers), playing a sexy widow in Franco-era Spain who seduces her young boarder and then induces him to kill his beautiful fiancée, a devoted housewife but a flop in bed.

Political fight stirs over Cambodian rebel forces

BANGKOK (AP) — A furious political battle is shaping up in Cambodia and the United States over whether the non-communist resistance is cooperating with the communist Khmer Rouge and whether Washington should halt its aid.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the army commander of one non-Communist faction, angrily denied cooperation with the Khmer Rouge in a telephone interview Tuesday.

"As I have told the American administration and the United States, I have ordered all my field commanders not to cooperate with the Khmer Rouge. But I cannot prevent the Khmer Rouge from attacking at the same time as us," he said.

He added: "Let me be clear: If the United States cuts off aid and abandons the non-Communists, we will have no choice but to move closer to the Khmer Rouge and China to survive."

China has been a longtime backer of the Khmer Rouge. The United States has supported the non-Communist rebels.

A report by President George Bush's administration to the U.S. Congress, submitted Tuesday, says the non-Communist guerrilla factions are in some cases cooperating militarily with the Khmer Rouge. Some officials argue that the aid should be halted for that reason.

"This report calls into question the legal basis for continued U.S. support to the guerrillas and certainly promises a confrontation with Congress," said a senior aide to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Reached by telephone in Washington, he said Tuesday the committee will call hearings within a few weeks to debate a possible aid cutoff.

However, U.S. government officials said the report does not demonstrate a violation of the law. They are preparing to defend continued aid in what is expected to be intense, renewed debate over U.S. policy on Cambodia.

The United States provides "non-lethal aid" to non-Communist forces fighting the Vietnamese-installed government in Cambodia — the forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former Cambodian ruler, and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front. Prince Norodom Ranariddh is Norodom Sihanouk's son.

No U.S. aid has gone to the Chinese-armed Khmer Rouge, the strongest group in the three-party guerrilla coalition. The Khmer Rouge, driven from power by the late 1978 Vietnamese invasion, tried to remake Cambodia society in a 3 1/2-year rule in which hundreds of thousands died from starvation, execution and disease.

The U.S. aid package of up to \$20 million for fiscal 1991 has a provision that "the president shall terminate assistance... to any Cambodian organisation that he determines is cooperating, tactically or strategically, with the Khmer Rouge."

It requires the administration to investigate the question and report its findings to Congress.

The report submitted to the Congress Tuesday cites "accounts of communication, logistical aid and coordinated attacks involving the Khmer Rouge and certain units of the ANS" — Sihanouk's guerrillas.

The report, obtained by the Associated Press, says that, "at the tactical level... there have been reports of use by some ANS units of Khmer Rouge supplies and logistical lines."

9 Colombian youths killed while playing in Medellin

MEDELLIN, Colombia (R) — Gunmen picked out nine young men playing football in a poor neighbourhood and shot them fatally Tuesday, the latest in a rash of killings in this city, police and witnesses said.

Witnesses said the men drove up to a group of youths playing football, separated to one side nine they knew by name and shot them from point-blank range before driving away. Six were killed outright. Three others died in hospital.

On Monday evening two armed men walked into a classroom, called out two boys' names and shot them in front of

years old.

Police were unable to offer an explanation for the killings in Medellin, home to the powerful Medellin cocaine cartel.

But church sources said parishes had received a letter last week from a death-squad group which warned it had started a campaign to purge the city of drug users.

The letter urged parents to speak to their families and talk them out of smoking marijuana, hazzuco — a cocaine-based stimulant — and other drugs.

Police said they have no proof to link this week's murders to the

Thousands rally for Aquino ouster

MANILA (AP) — Thousands of students, workers and former supporters of President Corason Aquino marched in the largest anti-government rally in recent years Wednesday to demand her resignation.

Speakers charged that Mrs. Aquino betrayed the 1986 revolution that swept her to power.

Police said about 20,000 demonstrators marched to the site near military camps where rebel soldiers mutinied against President Ferdinand Marcos on Feb. 22, 1986. Tens of thousands of Filipinos turned out to support the revolt, which toppled Marcos and propelled Mrs. Aquino to power.

Wednesday's protesters included supporters of the late president, legislators opposed to U.S. military bases on Philippine soil, and government officials who have resigned or been removed from office after disagreements with the administration.

Opponents accuse the Aquino government of corruption, incompetence and lack of vision.

"Five years after we toppled Marcos, her promises became virtual bullhorns that burst in the air," said Nick Elman, spokesman of the left-wing May One Movement. "It is no longer a question of critiquing the Aquino government, but... of establishing a new government that will serve the majority and not the few."

Sen. Wigberto Tanada, who ran for the senate under the administration ticket, said Mrs. Aquino and her foreign affairs advisers "betrayed the national interest" by agreeing to keep U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

Student leader Nathaniel Santiago, chairman of the League of Filipino Students, said there was no difference between Marcos' "reign of terror" and Mrs. Aquino's "dictatorship of the elite."

"Now we are dreaming of... a genuine revolution," Santiago said in a speech.

S. African police clash with white supremacists

PRETORIA (R) — Police and white South African right-wingers have clashed when khaki-clad white supremacists tried to march on a jail where one of their leaders is staging a hunger strike.

Women and children fled and traffic ground to a halt when police lobbed tear gas at about 500 Neo-Nazis who tried to make their way from Pretoria's Church Square to the city's central prison.

Police sealed off the jail and thick waves of choking gas filled the air as protesters tried to get past barricades and approach the prison complex.

The rightists, who hack the creation of a whites-only state in South Africa, wanted to deliver a television set to Piet "Skiet" Rudolph, leader of the Orde Boerevolk (Order of the Boer Nation), who has been on hunger strike for 24 days.

Pakistani government's 1st 100 days earn high marks

ISLAMABAD (AP) — For Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the honeymoon was over before it started.

When Sharif took over Pakistan's democratically elected government in November, he inherited an economy shattered by the effects of the Gulf crisis, a crime rate that was rapidly climbing, and souring relations with the United States, Pakistan's longtime ally.

Despite these and a host of other domestic problems left over from ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government, political analysts and diplomats have given Sharif's first 100 days good marks.

Sharif's accomplishments include:

- Holding together a fragile coalition government that spans the ideological spectrum from secular parties to Islamic fundamentalists. He even offered to make peace with his longtime nemesis, Ms. Bhutto, whose administration was dismissed after 20 months in power and then resoundingly defeated in October's national elections.
- Appointing a cabinet of seasoned politicians and experienced bureaucrats.
- Introducing measures aimed at eliminating bureaucratic red tape and pushing Pakistan toward a free-market economy.
- Withstanding growing domestic pressure to withdraw the 11,000 Pakistani troops sent to Saudi Arabia as part of the allied force against Iraq.
- Refusing to engage in "India-hating," the volatile, accusatory statements that many blame for bringing Pakistan and its eastern neighbour to the brink of a fourth war last year.
- Sharif's biggest fault seems to be that he doesn't talk much, according to analysts and Pakistani accustomed to the more outspoken Ms. Bhutto. Unlike most politicians, Sharif is shy and dislikes the public part of politics. He is much more comfortable quietly striking deals and forging alliances.
- The heir to a huge industrial empire, Sharif has used his husi-

ness acumen to initiate policies aimed at starting up or privatising businesses. Although the impact has been overshadowed by the Gulf war, Western diplomats and economists have applauded his efforts to jump-start Pakistan's stagnant economy and spur badly needed foreign investment.

Sharif has eliminated bureaucratic procedures and other restrictions that impeded investment for decades. He also put in place major credit-and-tax packages to attract industry to rural areas and dismantled foreign exchange regulations that hurt foreign investment.

"It's too good to believe," said Ghulam Rasul, a Pakistani economist.

But Sharif's government is still burdened by a growing budget deficit, lost remittances from Pakistani labourers in the Gulf, rising inflation, growing unemployment, and a soaring 3.2 per cent population growth rate that has outpaced industrial and farm production.

Pakistan's economic problems have been aggravated by Washington's suspension of more than \$500 million in economic and military aid because of suspicions about Islamabad's nuclear programme.

While insisting that Pakistan's nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes, Sharif has refused to bow to American pressure. "We're not going to barter our self respect for American aid," he said.

To counteract the aid shortfall, Sharif introduced a tightening campaign that included newspaper ads urging Pakistanis to save money by smoking one less cigarette and drinking one less cup of tea a day.

Despite growing anti-American sentiment caused largely by the aid suspension, diplomatic sources describe Sharif as a pragmatic capitalist who wants good relations with Washington. For now, they say, the Gulf war has given Washington and Islamabad and excuse to set aside the nuclear issues.

Radiation leaks at Japanese nuclear waste testing facility

TOKYO (R) — Radiation leaked from a Japanese nuclear waste safety testing facility, marking the country's third nuclear accident this month and raising concern over the government's atomic energy safety policy, experts said.

The accident at Tokai Mura northeast of Tokyo took place Saturday but was not revealed until Wednesday.

The news was delayed because the amount of radiation leaked was small and harmless and because the cause had to be investigated, said a spokesman for the state-run Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute, which operates the testing facility.

The establishment checks the safety of high-radiation level waste buried underground.

The leak occurred because of a fault in an emergency power supply system being used while the main power supply system was shut off construction, he said.

The fault caused an automatic power shut-off, leading to pressure changes that allowed the leak from the "hot cell," a closed laboratory for storing and treating highly radioactive waste, he said.

The level of radioactivity was from one-quarter to one-twentieth maximum safe levels, the spokesman added.

"The amount of radiation leaked is not that large, but the

announcement came very late and the fact that they used the emergency system for normal operations brings up the problem of safety," said Jinzaburo Takagi, a physicist and the head of the citizens' nuclear information centre, a private research group opposed to nuclear power.

"It came just after the Mihama accident and will increase public concern over nuclear safety," he said.

A special committee was set up to determine the cause of an accident on Feb. 9 at the Mihama no. 2 pressurised nuclear water because of a broken tube in a steam generator.

Peterson, who had served prison terms for manslaughter, drug possession and petty crimes, was convicted of Palme's murder, but freed by an appeals court.

The 43-year-old has spent at least two-thirds of the 300,000 kronor (\$55,000) compensation he was awarded in May 1990, according to newspaper interviews. He said he spent 30,000 kronor (\$5,400) on beer.

Chief detective Hans Holmer, head of the initial investigation, was accused of mishandling the case and resigned in 1987.

He and two former senior security police officials were convicted and fined last December for illegal eavesdropping on the militant Kurdish Workers Party, or PKK. They had suspected PKK members of involvement in Palme's murder.

Minister of Justice Anna-Greta Leijon, and National Police Chief Nils-Arik Ahmanson resigned in 1988 after it was revealed they had sanctioned a wildcat probe into the killing, sidestepping the official investigation.

"As long as we have work to do and material to go through, we can't give up," said Olivebro.

"This summer, we and the prosecutors will sit down and evaluate the situation," he said. "And from there, we will decide how many people should stay on this."

Chances of finding Palme's assassin fade

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Five years after Prime Minister Olof Palme was assassinated on a Stockholm street, detectives realise their chances of finding the killer are fading fast.

They have no suspect, no motive, and no murder weapon.

The former prime suspect is freely spending the 300,000 kronor (\$55,000) that he received as compensation after being convicted and then freed for lack of evidence.

The head of the initial investigation left the police force and was convicted of using illegal methods. The 300-man detective team has been reduced to 25.

The justice minister and national police chief resigned in 1988 after it was revealed they had authorised and aided a wildcat probe, sidestepping the official investigation.

"We believe in a solution but we are also realists, and we know that as time passes, this becomes more difficult," said chief detective Hans Olivebro, who has headed the case since January, 1988.

Palme was shot to death on Feb. 28, 1986, while walking home from a movie with his wife, Lisbeth. No bodyguards accompanied the couple and the killer escaped down a dark alley.

Five years of police work have

cost 231 million kronor (\$42 million). But the 50-million-kronor (\$9 million) reward offered to anyone who helps find the killer remains untouched.

Police receive phone calls with new tips every day. Olivebro said his team has processed "slightly more than half" of the tens of thousands of clues gathered through the years.

The killing shocked and bewildered a country that had not had a political assassination since 1729. But the hunt for the killer and the mistakes of the police churned up even more disturbing feelings — suspicion of foreigners and fears of conspiracy.

The author of a book speculating police may have been involved in the killing was charged with slander.

Other theories were based on Palme's efforts to stop arms sales to Iran and on his involvement in Swedish weapon sales to India.

"Swedes can handle ordinary things, like making pea soup and cars and social security, but can't handle extraordinary things," said Andes Fern, chief editor of Arbetet newspaper and a former close associate of Palme.

Fern said the lack of a conclusion hampers honest debate on Palme's work. "We haven't been able to discuss the legacy and political implications in normal

terms. It's still discussed in a traumatic way," said Fern.

Palme had dominated Sweden's controlling Social Democratic Party for 20 years. He was a passionate politician who could be aggressive and scornful of his opponents.

For months after the shooting, hundreds of people placed flowers at the central Stockholm street corner where he died. Red roses covered the sidewalk for more than two years and the lane was renamed Olof Palme's Street.

On the first anniversary, 10,000 mourners with torches walked past Palme's grave, which lies 200 metres from the murder site.

This year, the Social Democratic Party board planned to commemorate the day by placing a wreath on the spot — the first flowers seen there for a long time.

Last December, Olivebro appeared on television asking for more witnesses. Those who testified at the 1989 trial of Christer Pettersson might be considered

over attempted rape

MELBOURNE (R) — The attempted rape of a 20-year-old woman in a crowded discotheque, which no one tried to stop, has caused a furore in Australia.

The 20-year-old was thrown to the floor of the discotheque in the Victorian state capital of Melbourne in the attack. One man stood on the woman's hands, pinning her to the floor, while another tried to pull down her shorts and sexually assaulted her, a police spokesman said.

The woman's screaming eventually forced the men to stop. "No one tried to stop it. There were other women present but they did nothing," the spokesman said. He estimated there were more than 300 people in the club at the time, including five bouncers and 23 staff. The woman, who informed police of the attack, was still extremely upset, he said.

Victorian Premier Joan Kirner said the government would accelerate proposals to protect women from violence. "Just as the act of violence itself was unacceptable so too was the compliance of those who apparently stood by and did nothing," she told reporters. The state government announced a plan to establish "women only" car parks at railway stations.

City of Joy in more trouble

CALCUTTA (R) — A group of lawyers are trying to stop British film director Roland Joffe completing a movie about Calcutta, denouncing the work as a slur on India's most populous city. Filming of *City of Joy*, which stars Patrick Swayze, has already been interrupted by protesters who claim it focuses only on Calcutta's poverty and squalor while ignoring its dynamism and culture.

Joffe, who made the Oscar-winning *The Killing Fields* about Cambodia, has been ordered to submit the *City of Joy* script to the Calcutta High Court. The movie is based on a novel by Dominique Lapierre and the five lawyers trying to halt production claim the book contained "humiliating" remarks about the city of 13 million people which teams with the poor and homeless.

The lawyers sought their ban. Judge N. K. Mitra issued a temporary order halting shooting of controversial parts of the script until he had read it. He ordered the movie-makers to give him a copy by March 5. Joffe's lawyer Sudipto Sarkar objected, saying the film had been cleared by the government in New Delhi and the Calcutta court had no jurisdiction. He was over-ruled.

Brando's son admits shooting

LOS ANGELES (R) — The dramatic taped confession of Christian Brando, son of Hollywood legend Marlon Brando, was played to a packed court, including the parents and child of the man he admitted killing.

The younger Brando repeatedly said in the taped statement played at a sentencing hearing that he shot Dag, Drolet, the 26-year-old Tahitian lover of his half-sister Cheyenne last May 16, but said it was an accident.